

Connecticut Guardian

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Fight's On

BRAC list released: Connecticut leaders vow to keep Bradley, Sub Base untouched

**SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE PA NCO**

DoD officials and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced their recommendations for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) on May 13, and Connecticut came out on top - as the state with the greatest projected personnel losses in the country.

Slated for realignment is the Bradley Air Base, home of the 103rd Fighter Wing. With the realignment, Connecticut will become one of only a few states with no flight capability in its Air Guard. As many as 143 full-time jobs, and more than 300 part-time positions will leave the Fighter Wing along with the A-10s that are scheduled to go to Barnes, in Massachusetts.

Closing under the BRAC proposal would be the New London Submarine Base in Groton, taking with it 8,460 military jobs and the only active duty military installation in Connecticut.

Also closing would be Sgt. Libby U.S.

Army Reserve Center in New Haven, Turner U.S. Army Reserve Center in Fairfield and the U.S. Army Reserve Center Area Maintenance Support Facility in Middletown. The three Reserve Centers would translate into a total loss of 56 jobs.

"Anyone familiar with the 103rd Fighter Wing at Bradley, the Sub base in New London, and the assets both bring to our national defense are at a loss to explain these recommendations," said Congressman John Larson, (D-CT 1st).

"This is only Round One," said Brig. Gen. Thad Martin, adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard. "This is far from over. Whether this happens or not is not a given."

The Sub Base closing has been receiving the most media attention since the announcement, and the Connecticut National Guard community is watching closely to see what happens there.

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Congressman Larson Speaks Out

"Anyone familiar with the 103rd Fighter Wing at Bradley, the Sub base in New London, and the assets both bring to our national defense are at a loss to explain these recommendations.

The 103rd calls home an international airport with the capability and resources to host a range of aircraft, large and small-including Air Force One. Yet, the Pentagon apparently deemed Bradley unable to retain their current aircraft or take on more. In New London, one finds incredible and dynamic synergy between the base, the Sub School and an industrial base capable of manufacturing and repairing today's most advanced vessels. Yet, the birthplace of the modern submarine service was unable to garner enough military value points in the Pentagon's review to stay off the BRAC list.

Were other options explored? How did each score in critical evaluation areas? Did the Pentagon accurately assess both bases and their capabilities?

Will leaving the state, like several others, without a flying unit affect recruiting and retention for the Air National Guard?

These are all questions that hold the key to the future of the "Flying Yankees" and the Sub base-questions that cannot be answered until the Pentagon levels with us and countless other bases around the country facing the same delay." - Congressman John Larson



Military honored by Connecticut House of Representatives

Members of Connecticut's military community were honored last month in the House Chambers for their service to the state and country. Speaker of the House, James Amann (D-118) arranged for the Connecticut Army and Air National Guardsmen and U.S. Coast Guardsmen to be present for the honor. Amann invited all the Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen to his office for a breakfast reception before taking them into the House Chambers, where they were greeted with a standing ovation and cheers from all in attendance.

The citation presented read in part: "Be it hereby known to all that: The Connecticut House of Representatives hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to: Connecticut's Iraqi War Veterans in recognition of Being Amongst Connecticut's Finest. The courage and patriotism that you have exhibited in Operation Iraqi Freedom have brought great pride to your communities and to the State of Connecticut." (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

Commander's Corner

The top three: Readiness, Recruiting & Retention

It has long been my belief that there is a direct correlation between mission success and a unit's ability to communicate. It is therefore my intent to use this column to keep the men and women of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard informed about priorities, goals, issues, and areas of focus within our Military Department.

Let me state clearly and for the record the three major focus areas of the Connecticut National Guard. Every Commander, staff officer, basic Soldier and Airmen should prioritize all their unit and individual efforts toward READINESS, RECRUITING, AND RETENTION.

Our commanders down through our first line supervisors must make every effort to

train, equip, and care for all our Soldiers and Airmen. Leadership at every level has the obligation to provide our combatants with all the tools required to successfully prosecute, and then return safely home, from engagements in the War on Terror.

Commanders need to command!! Know your unit. Know your Soldiers and Airmen. Get to know their families.

What are your unit strengths? What are your unit weaknesses? Does the chain of command see and know what you know? What have you done to improve the READINESS of your unit?

Do all unit members share your vision regarding RECRUITING, RETENTION, and READINESS? Are you able to talk the issues vitally important to your unit's success? Are

terms like FTF, BRAC, Realignment a n d TRANSFORMATION more than abstract concepts to the Soldiers and Airmen in your unit? What do the words accountability and credibility mean to the Soldiers and Airmen in your unit?

As I make my way to each Connecticut National Guard unit, expect I will be calling upon Commanders and unit leaders to address the issues these questions represent.

We can ill afford to allow a simple failure to communicate to stand between us and total mission success.



Brig. Gen.
Thaddeus Martin
Adjutant General

Connecticut Guardian

360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3795
Phone: (860) 548-3251
DSN: 636-7857
FAX: (860) 524-4902

E-Mail:
CTGUARDIAN@ct.ngb.army.mil

Captain-General
Gov. M. Jodi Rell

The Adjutant General
Commanding General, CTNG
Brig. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin

State Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Zastaury

State Command Chief Master Sergeant
Chief Master Sgt. Wanda Wawruck

State Public Affairs Officer
Connecticut Guardian Managing Editor
Lt. Col. John Whitford

State Public Affairs NCO
Connecticut Guardian Editor
Layout and Design
Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton

Assistant Layout and Design Editor
Spec. Jesse. J. Stanley

Contributors

Det. 1, 65th Press Camp HQ, CTARNG

Maj. George Worrall, III
103rd FW PAO, CTANG

103rd Air Control Squadron

103rd Communications Flight, CTANG

First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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Perspectives

How do you think the public's perception of the National Guard has changed since 9/11?



SENIOR AIRMAN JOEL HENRY
103RDAIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

"The level of appreciation has increased as well as the respect and admiration for what we do. They understand better the level of commitment because of the sacrifices made overseas."

MASTER SGT. LARRY DELISLE
103RD AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

"I think the public now has a better idea of, not only how many people are involved in the Guard, but also, their support is much greater now that they understand and know who we are."



1ST LT. RICK MARSHALL
C Co. 1-102ND INFANTRY

"I think the National Guard's mission has been more visible and the public sees that we are not just one weekend a month, two weeks in the summer."



SPC. BRENDA SCOTT
RECRUITING & RETENTION

"I think that the community that surrounds the Connecticut National Guard is more patriotic and more supportive of the Soldiers and Airmen."

STAFF SGT. JEFFREY STOPA
RECRUITING & RETENTION

"I know that when I drive down the road people wave, honk their horns and give thumbs up. People like the military now. They notice us more and come up and thank us."



Firefighting Soldiers get a home at Ranch

OC JESSE JAMES STANLEY
65TH PCH

After less than eight months of construction the Connecticut National Guard has opened a firehouse on April 29 at Stone’s Ranch Military Training Facility in East Lyme, Conn. The firehouse, which is located in the cantonment area of Stone’s Ranch, will house two part-time teams of National Guard firefighters.

More than 40,000 bricks and 10,000 concrete blocks make up the 10,800 square foot facility. It possesses such amenities as five bunk rooms, a kitchen, an exercise room and four drive-through bays. Each team will also have three mission-specific vehicles to assist in their duties including a 6,000 gallon mobile water truck. The entire project cost more than \$2 million.

“I like building things,” Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, then-Adjutant General. “The Connecticut Guard deserves buildings and facilities just like this one.”

The firehouse will primarily support military facilities but could respond to any situation it needed to, said Lt. Col. Gerald J. Lukowski, construction and facilities management officer for the CTARNG.

It is positioned near all major highways in the area.

With the success of this project behind them, Lukowski is hoping to expand the project to include another fire station in the northern part of the state.

“This is another part of my program to develop a core training environment getting the Soldiers out of the armories,” Cugno said.

Cugno’s military construction program has had many successes over the years having gained federal funding commitments of more than \$150 million through 2011.



Members of the 14th Civil Support Team raise the flag at the Stone’s Ranch Firehouse for the first time during dedication ceremonies held in April. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

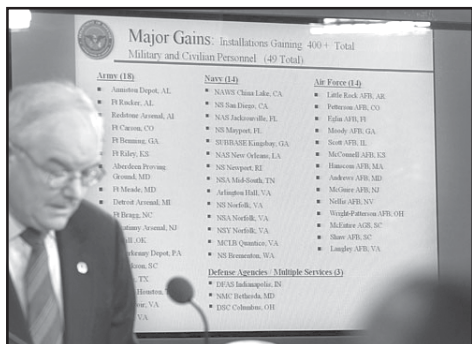


The firshouse at Stone’s Ranch was dedicated in April, In the inset, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) William A. Cugno stands beside the dedication plaque. (Photos by OC Jesse J. Stanley)

BRAC 2005: Base Closure, Realignment recommendations follow lengthy process

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Few people dispute that the U.S. military has too much infrastructure to face the threats and opportunities of the 21st century. The question is: What's the best way to close or realign installations to match challenges of the new world?



Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Michael Wynne makes a statement in the Pentagon briefing room about the Base Realignment and Closure recommendations that were announced by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on May 13, 2005. The BRAC recommendations, if adopted would close 33 major bases and realign 29 more. (Defense Dept. photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen)

Bush Administration, and the third and fourth were under President Clinton.

Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen first proposed the current round soon after taking office in 1997. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has been asking for a new round of closures and realignments since taking office in January 2001.

BRAC is a challenging process. The four previous BRAC rounds — in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 — brought about 97 major closures, 55 major realignments and 235 minor actions, according to DoD figures. Overall, closing and realigning these installations saved American taxpayers around \$18 billion through fiscal 2001 and a further \$7 billion per year since.

A BRAC report submitted in March 2004 estimated there is 24 percent excess capacity in DoD.

Civilian and military leaders in the department have stressed that the military must become more agile and flexible to face the new challenges. Officials have repeatedly said the BRAC process must be seen as part of a larger effort to restructure the global footprint of the U.S. military. As part of this, U.S. bases overseas will close or morph into nonpermanent installations. Officials estimate the number of troops in Europe will drop from 100,000 to about 50,000.

In Korea, the number of U.S. forces is already dropping from 34,000. Officials have not released a final target number for troops on the peninsula.

The BRAC 2005 process builds on lessons learned from past

rounds. Essentially, this year's legislation took previous versions and amended them.

This year's BRAC round was part of the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. The process began with a memorandum from Rumsfeld to defense leaders entitled "Transformation Through Base Realignment and Closure."

By the end of 2003, DoD published the draft selection criteria. In March 2004, the department submitted the force-structure plan and infrastructure inventory to Congress. The next month, Congress approved the final selection criteria.

In March 2005, the president nominated the commissioners that will serve on the BRAC Commission. And this month, Secretary Rumsfeld will send the department's closure and realignment recommendations to the commission.

This year's BRAC Commission members are former Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi, commission chairman; former Nevada Rep. James H. Bilbray; Philip Coyle, a former DoD director of operational test and evaluation; retired Navy Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr., a former commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command; former Utah Rep. James V. Hansen; retired Army Gen. James T. Hill, former commander of U.S. Southern Command; retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton, from Connecticut and former commander of Air Education and Training Command; former Transportation Secretary Samuel K. Skinner; and retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner, former director of nursing services in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General.

The basic process is simple. The military services and joint cross-service groups develop closure and realignment recommendations. Military value is the primary consideration.

The law also mandates that the department use a 20-year force-structure plan in forming its recommendations.

The services examine each base's "service-unique" function. In a difference this year, cross-service groups will analyze functions that cross service lines. For example, all services have warehouses. So a joint group will analyze warehouse functions for all the services.

The cross-service groups are examining seven functional areas: educational and training, headquarters and support activities, industrial, intelligence, medical, supply and storage, and technical.

The most recent previous BRAC round used similar joint-service groups, but they could not make recommendations to the secretary. This year, recommendations from the joint groups are considered by the secretary the same way the services' submissions are.

Rumsfeld will publish his recommendations in the Federal Register no later than May 16 and will submit his recommendations to the BRAC Commission and Congress.

Once Rumsfeld submits his recommendations, the commission will hold hearings and examine the recommendations. The commission process runs through September 2005. The commission sends an "all-or-nothing list" to the president, meaning the president can approve all of the closures and realignments on the list or disapprove the entire list. If he approves, the list goes to Congress.

The House and Senate have 45 "legislative days" to disapprove the list. If they do nothing, the list automatically is approved and has the "force and effect of law."

Connecticut Military affected by BRAC

Realignment

Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station (103rd FW)

Total Personnel lost: 70 (This figure is for full-time personnel only and does not include the more than 330 traditional positions that may also be lost.)

Closure

Submarine Base, Groton

Total Personnel lost: 8,460

Sgt. Libby U.S. Army Reserve Center New Haven

Total Personnel lost: 21

Turner U.S. Army Reserve Center Fairfield

Total Personnel lost: 17

U.S. Army Reserve Center Area Maintenance Support Facility Middletown

Total Personnel lost: 18

These losses total 8,586 full time positions lost in the state of Connecticut, and represent the largest single loss of any state in the country.

The BRAC recommendations also close the only active duty military installation in the state.

Websites of interest

www.brac.gov

www.defenselink.mil

www.ngact.org
(Click on 103rd FW/BRAC link)

BRAC Timeline

- The commission will then forward its report on the recommendations to the president by Sept. 8, 2005.
- The president will have until Sept. 23, 2005, to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety.
- If accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding on the department.

BRAC: Battle ahead for Air Guard, Sub Base: Army Guard OK

From Page 1

The Sub Base is the only active duty military facility in Connecticut, and as such, provides a full spectrum of life support functions for not only the Navy community, but the National Guard, Reserve and retiree communities as well.

For example, the Army National Guard uses the Sub Base extensively for medical and health related issues such as referrals to civilian treatment authorities. The Active Guard/Reserve members of the Army and Air National Guard use the Sub Base for their medical, dental and eye care providers. Many retirees and current military personnel use the commissary, PX/BX and MWR facilities.

The Army National Guard also uses the firing ranges at the Sub Base for weapons qualifications.

All of this would be lost if the Sub Base does close.

On the bright side, Martin said the Army made out very well in the BRAC recommendations.

"The Army approach to BRAC was purposeful and inclusive," said Martin. "The Army included the adjutants general in their

decision-making process. On the Army side Connecticut will divest itself of five old, outdated facilities (in addition to the three Army Reserve Centers) and gain two fully modern facilities in the Middletown and Newtown areas. They did it right."

The two new facilities Martin spoke of will be used as joint readiness centers by the Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

On the Air Force side, however, the adjutants general were not included in the decision-making process, nor asked for their input.

"The State will be going through every report looking at all the issues and points that their plan may have missed," said Martin.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell has established a committee to take a look at the BRAC process, how it affects Connecticut and how the recommendations can be reversed in Connecticut. The committee expects to pour over all the data it can and will do everything in its power to save Bradley and the Sub Base, according to Martin.

The realignment of the air base at

Bradley not only means the loss of the 17 A-10s and the Fighter Wing's flying mission, it also means the loss of 173 full time personnel and 384 traditional positions, said Martin. He said the Wing would gain back some of the full-time positions with the addition of an Air Superiority Alert Site and a Centralized Intermediate Repair Facility (CIRF), bringing the total full-time job loss to 70, but he did not have figures on how many traditional positions come back into the state with the additional assets.

The loss of jobs has the potential to mean that an Airman could lose his or her full-time position as well as their traditional position, and if that Airman happens to married to another Airman, it could mean one family losing four jobs: two full-time, two traditional.

The Connecticut Air Guard has a history older than the Air Force itself, having received its first aircraft in 1924. In 1946, a year before the birth of the Air Force, aircraft moved to Bradley and in 1957, the Fighter Wing moved to Bradley, also.

"For over 80 years aircraft have been dedicated to the state of Connecticut," said Martin. "It is the third oldest flying unit in

"The 2005 BRAC process ensures that the United States will continue to have the best-trained and best-equipped military to meet the threats and challenges of the 21st century. BRAC is not a stand-alone event, but it's a necessary step to improving the warfighting capability of the joint force."

*Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers
- May 12, 2005*

the country. The military value of the aircraft alone should be enough to leave the base as it is."

The state's BRAC committee is pouring over all the available data and preparing for its presentations to the BRAC Commission (scheduled for July 6 in Boston).

But for now, Martin said, it's business as usual.

"Fly safe. Concentrate on the STANEVAL (Standards Evaluation) and the UCI (Unit Compliance Inspection)."

BRAC 2005: Commission chairman describes panel's role

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Defense Department's base realignment and closure recommendations are now in the hands of the nine-member commission that will make the final decisions.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission takes its independent role very seriously, said the BRAC chairman, and he vowed an "open and transparent" process.

Anthony Principi, the commission chairman, said closure and realignment decisions are tough. "These decisions will impact the lives of a great many Americans," he said during an interview. "By going out and visiting bases,

by talking to community leaders, we can be that independent check."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld turned the list of recommendations over to the commission May 13. He recommended closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 other major bases. DoD officials said that with 318 major bases, this BRAC round would close about 10 percent of the stateside bases in DoD.

Rumsfeld's recommendations are based on the military value of installations measured against a force-structure plan for the next 20 years.

"This is going to be the most difficult

(BRAC) round because it is very complex," the former Department of Veterans Affairs secretary said. "There are changes being made at one installation that impact many other installations. It's kind of like a daisy chain. We need to be careful if we make a decision contrary to the secretary of defense recommendation that will have an impact on several other locations, (and we) need to look at that carefully."

Principi stressed he wants all deliberations to be "open and transparent" and does not want the process to become politicized. "I want to ensure that decisions are based upon the criteria set out in the law and the force-structure plan, and not because of some political consideration," he said.

The BRAC commission will judge the recommendations using the same criteria that DoD officials used, the most important being military value. But there are other criteria, Principi said, and those include economic and environmental impacts on communities.

The commission chairman said he thinks his panel needs to look at the changes recommended to the National Guard and Reserve infrastructure. "I think that will have a major, major impact on the reserves and the Guard, and we need to look at that carefully," he said.

He said he believes this BRAC round has much more emphasis on the reserve components than previous rounds. "Obviously, this is a concern," he said. "We're a nation at war, the Guard and reserves are playing a more prominent role than ever before, certainly (more important than) when I was in uniform. And now we're going to be closing a significant number of bases, and

people are going to have to travel greater distances to undertake their weekend drills."

He said this might be easy to travel if the affected person is a pilot. But the men and women who generate the missions — the crew chiefs, loadmasters, refuelers and weapons specialists — are "going to have a tough time" getting to their new assignments.

He admitted that many in the Guard and reserves travel good distances to serve. Still, "if you grew up in that community and we're saying you have to drive 300 or 400 miles or fly even longer distances, that's going to have an impact on retention."

Principi went through a similar process as Veterans Affairs secretary. He changed the VA infrastructure to meet changes in demographics and health-care delivery of the 21st century. He said he learned firsthand the upheaval that takes place when a military base that has served the nation half a century or longer is closed.

"I'm very sensitive to it," he said. "That's not to say it's more important than national security. National security always has to have the highest priority. But we always must be mindful of economic impact."

Principi said the commissioners understand the need to transform the military. "The ability to engage in joint readiness operations and warfighting and capability is a move in the right direction," he said.

He added that he agrees with Rumsfeld's work to make the military "more efficient, effective, mobile and flexible."



Defense Department senior advisers on Base Realignment and Closure listen to comments from Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Michael Wynne during a press briefing at the Pentagon, May 13, 2005. (Defense Dept. photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby)

103d ACS brave winter hazards to conduct radar antenna tests

CAPT. JOHN BREISLER
103RD ACS

Members of the 103d Air Control Squadron, Orange, Conn. deployed several times to Camp Edwards Military Reservation on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, from January through March 2005.

The purpose of the deployments was to conduct functional tests of the AN/TPS-75 Radar Set Antenna in accordance with a Time Compliance Technical Order procedure to modify the radar's antenna bearing and pedestal assembly. Typically, the unit conducts tests of this nature in garrison. However, due to significant construction activity at the Orange Air National Guard Station in Orange, the unit did not have a local site suitable for radar operations.

The Camp Edwards location on the Cape was the closest available site capable of meeting the strict RF radiation requirements to complete the tests.

The 103d ACS has deployed to Camp Edwards on several occasions during the last 20 years, typically in the summer months. This deployment differed from others past in that it occurred during the winter months and did not require the entire squadron's participation.

The deployment was comparably a small-scale from those in the past where this effort included personnel from the Ground Radar System and the Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) sections and deployed the following equipment to Wheelock Hill on Camp Edwards: the AN/TPS-75 Radar Set, an S-530A/G Expandable Shelter, an AN/

MJQ-1612 60 Hertz Generator, and an AN/MJQ-1632 400 Hertz Generator.

The weather played a significant role in achieving a mission-complete status, in addition to the logistical challenges of the deployment.

During the winter of 2004-2005, Cape Cod received more than four-times the average annual snowfall amount for the region, with more than 36 inches accumulating from a single snowstorm in late January. This particular snowstorm postponed the post-test portion of the tasking for almost an entire month.

Upon the team's arrival at Camp Edwards on Feb. 28, about 8-10 inches of snow remained on the ground. That evening, Cape Cod received another 12-14 inches of fresh snow, which closed both Camp Edwards Military Reservation and Otis ANG Base to all but essential personnel.

Prior to the storm, the team coordinated to store the equipment at two areas at Otis ANGB - the 267th Combat Communications Squadron and Base Fuels. Following the storm, the team was able to readily access the equipment and begin placement on Wheelock Hill the following day.

By -March 2, the team was finally able to access Wheelock Hill. Initial efforts required driving the 5-ton vehicle repeatedly over the dirt access road in order to facilitate the non-tactical support vehicles.

The effort worked well in allowing the blue-fleet 4X4 into the area, but weather conditions and site activity transformed the packed snow into ice, which created a very dangerous

situation for further vehicle movement. To overcome the hazard, the crew tried to position other towed equipment by driving up the backside of Wheelock Hill. Unfortunately, due to the ice on the steep slope, the pull-vehicle simply could not generate enough traction to overcome the incline.

Further, the ground-safety crew assisting the tow-vehicle driver could not maintain balance on the incline because of the extremely icy conditions and repeatedly lost their footing.

After a concerted effort, the crew successfully negotiated the terrain conditions and was able to place the gear on-site from the opposite direction.

Teamwork and perseverance enabled the crew to position the increment safely under the circumstances.

On March 3, the Roads and Grounds crew from Otis ANGB spread a salt and sand mixture on both access roads to the Hill, which helped to make them easier to traverse. Even still, the day brought its challenges as the 103d ACS team prepared to deploy the hazardous liquid spill containment devices - a shallow, collapsible rubberized basin - for the two electrical generators and fuel truck.

After clearing off a large area of snow, the team assembled the spill devices and began final equipment placement activities. While positioning the first generator on the containment device, the entire assembly of containment device, fuel truck and generator slid down the

hillside due to the steep slope and icy conditions.

The equipment came to rest about one foot from the staked location. Although a bit unnerving, the physical adjustment did not endanger any personnel nor did it damage any equipment or impair mission accomplishment. The balance of the equipment placement and test activity progressed without incident and the team accomplished all required tasks to the satisfaction of the associated written guidance. However, good planning, vigilant situational awareness and continuous use of personal protective equipment were key factors in avoiding safety incidents in light of the hazardous environmental conditions.

This deployment challenged the personnel of the 103d ACS. Record-setting snowfall and near-impossible logistical scenarios colluded to impede the timely completion of a mission-critical TCTO tasking. However, the members of the 103d ACS once again used their ingenuity, resilience and perseverance to set them apart as professionals committed to the mission at-hand.



The 103rd Air Control Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard, spent time at Camp Edwards during the winter to conduct functional tests of the AN/TPS-75 Radar Set Antenna. (Photos courtesy of the 103rd ACS)

Flying Yankees invade South

Jamie Haig

16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

In the glare on the tarmac at Hurlburt Field, A-10 Thunderbolt's are checked and rechecked by vigilant maintainers, as the pilots approach to take them out on another exercise.

Visiting from the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing are the infamous "Warthogs," to train for two weeks with the 720th Special Tactics Group and the Gunships.

All three elements have worked together in the past in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and as far back as Desert Storm.

"Supporting ground troops is rewarding," said Maj. Kevin McManaman, instructor pilot for the 103rd FW. "Hearing thanks from them afterward is the best. But, that's what we do - close air support and search and rescue. Along with the Gunships and all Special Forces, we take care of business."

While in Fallujah Iraq, McManaman and other A-10 pilots were called in for close air support at a dam that had been seized by the enemy. During a mission that took seven days of twenty-four hour support, their assistance helped Special Forces overcome the enemy and regain possession of the dam.

While here, the visiting pilots worked with the 14th Weapons School to help train the helicopter pilots how to assist with close air support, running eight sorties a day for two weeks.

These planes can maneuver well at low air speeds and altitudes and have a highly accurate weapons system, which includes a Gatling gun and Maverick and Sidewinder missiles.

"They built the plane around the Gatling gun," said head crew chief, Master Sergeant Roland Cyr. "It's capable of firing 4,000 rounds a minute and extends internally half the length of the plane."

Cyr has worked on the A-10's for 25 of his 31 years in the Air Force. "They're the best we have," said the crew chief. "We can rearm an A-10 in less than 90 minutes and refuel, on the ground, in less than 10."

A-10's have in-flight refueling capabilities that allow them unlimited hours of flying time. They can survive direct hits from armor-piercing and high-explosive projectiles and have a titanium armor that protects - not only the pilots - but also parts of the flight-control system.

Maj. David Torres, also with the 103rd Fighter Wing, has been flying the A-10 since 1991. Beginning with Desert Storm, he continued flying in operations Provide Comfort, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

While in Iraq, he and others in his wing ran 17 combat missions in thirty days. Torres supported Special Operations Forces by working with Airmen during personnel recovery. They would clear the area, allowing the helicopters to then pick up the injured or downed personnel.

"Close air support is operational," said Torres. "We all work very well together. This is the reason we are here training, to perfect this joint operation."



Staff Sgt. Kersten E. Witt, crew chief, 103rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, Connecticut Air National Guard renders a salute to Maj. Jose D. Torres, pilot, 118th Fighter Squadron, before he takes off in an A-10 here May 2. (Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class James Dickens)



June 14th Army Birthday Flag Day

141st Medical Company receives Combat Patch in Tikrit, Iraq

A Combat Patch Ceremony was held at Camp Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq for members of the 141st Medical Company (GA). Below is what Capt. Anne-Marie Garcia, commander of the 141st, said during the presentation of the patches to her Soldiers:

"The combat patch, worn on the right shoulder, identifies Soldiers who've served in a combat zone and the unit they served under. Receiving the patch means different things to different Soldiers.

"For many it means that we've come together as one team and fought the war on terrorism here in Iraq. For some, receiving the patch gives them a sense of accomplishment. It gives them a sense of pride to be here, not every unit has had the chance to deploy and serve their country, so to be able to be here is doing something special by serving the United States. From the lowest ranking private

to the commander, receiving the combat patch is a significant moment and means something different to every warrior.

"Each one of my Soldiers is a War Fighter. Every Soldier in Iraq serving to liberate and guarantee a future of freedom and prosperity for the Iraqi people shares the title and honor of War Fighter. Support personnel facing danger of cowardly improvised explosive devices and small arms fire as they move patients and classes of supply on the battlefield, tired and cold Soldiers standing watch on observation Point Guard or AHA Duty, cooks and mechanics huddled in shelters as mortars fall on forward operations bases all over Iraq all face a deadly and determined adversary; all are equally committed to equip themselves with bravery and honor as they serve the Nation they love. The

War Fighter is not a member of an exclusive club, attainable by the few, served by the many.

"The War Fighter is all of us, each committed to our mutual success, each ready and eager to fulfill that role which those charged with the sacred responsibility of leadership asks us to perform.

"I would ask of you to remember that the asymmetric battlefield expands the scope and role of Combat Service Support personnel who now find themselves performing double duty as a War Fighter and trained specialist supporting operational commitments. If every Soldier gives 100 percent to the mission then they have earned this combat patch and can wear it with distinction and pride.

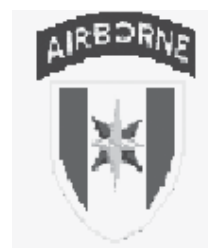
"I present to each Soldier from the 141st Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) the

44th Medical Command combat patch with airborne tab. This flash and background carry distinct symbolism.

As the shoulder sleeve insignia reflects the colors of maroon and white representing the Army Medical Department, so does the Brigade's flash. The white diamond centered in the flash and background reflects the relationship to the XVIII Airborne Corps.

The Army Medical Department's proud heritage of long and dedicated service to its nation's Soldiers now has another distinct symbol of excellence.

"AIRBORNE!"



Three Soldiers from 141st Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) support Forward Operating Base Caldwell

Sgt. 1st Class Pablo Lopez
TEAM LEADER, 141st MED. CO. (GA)

After arriving from an interesting local site seeing road trip or otherwise known as a convoy from Balad to Kirkush over three months ago, I, Sgt. 1st Class Pablo Lopez, Sgt. Eric Watts and Spc. Katie Rys, were given a few days to unpack, settle down and acclimate to our surroundings. During our acclimation period we were informed as to the mission essential status of C. Co in the Eastern theater of Iraq. Forward Operating Base Caldwell or otherwise known as FOB Caldwell is the main training base for the Iraqi army and police personnel of Iraq.

After our acclimation period we reported to our integration training at the 278th Support Squadron, Charlie Medical Company, Troop Medical Clinic from Tennessee. We provide Level II Care to US Service Members, US Civilian Contractors, Iraqi Army, Iraqi employees and Iraqi family members that are consultants from Balarous. We also receive patients with consults from FOBs Bernstein

and Cobra. We provide support for convoy operations and humanitarian missions.

In the Troop Medical Clinic we have three trauma beds, two patient exam rooms, pharmacy, lab, x-ray, patient hold, dental, mental health, and ambulance platoon. We had a forward surgical team that was assigned elsewhere in country. The Doctors and PA's that are assigned to the clinic rotate every three months. Right now the three doctors that are assigned to the clinic specialize in ENT (ear, nose, and throat), Trauma Specialist, Family Practice, and Anesthesiology.

We schedule sick call twice daily, for three hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. Other hours are used for emergencies or trauma care. Trauma patients are evacuated for higher medical care to Balad.

To date we have seen 3,742 US military, 153 US civilians, 130 Iraqi Security Forces and 253 Iraqis. Averaging about 35 patients a day and numbers are increasing as the

weather gets hotter.

The TMC of C. Co is a hub of patient care for the Soldiers of the 278th, 1071st, 386th, other small unit attachments and Iraqi Security Forces. Our lab capabilities include bloodwork ranging from LFT's, I-stat-6 and CBC's to name a few. The lab has been an essential component to patient care providing the medical staff of the TMC to analyze troop health without having to fill out consults to Balad for basic analysis. In 20 minutes we can determine the need for care of soldiers and allies to keep troops ready for battle operations in theater.

The X-ray lab has two x-ray personnel that assist the physicians with diagnosis to troop injuries. X-ray has provided us the unique capability to determine the severity of injuries and need for evacuation to a higher level of care. For example is the injury sustained a simple contusion, hair line fracture or fracture. The specialists on hand use this capability daily to asses injuries and determine weather there is a need for a

brace or do we need surgery for injuries.

Our dental staff here in Caldwell, although limited by the instruments available to them can aid in maintaining troop dental hygiene. Our dental staff has done everything from root canals to cavity fillings.

Rys had the opportunity to go on a Humanitarian mission in the town of Mandalay with a few other medics, two doctors and convoy personnel. They set up a clinic and gave treatment to the locals in the town and gave clothing and toys to the children.

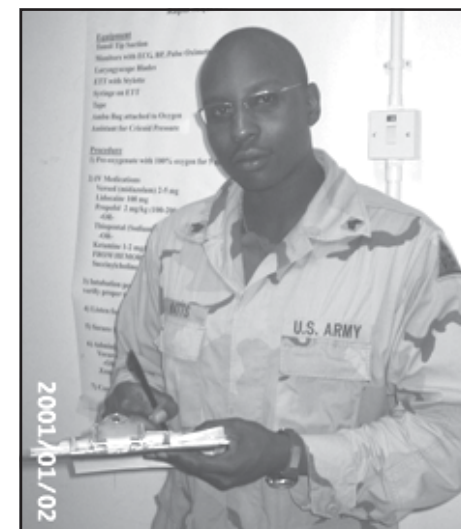
For training we hold MASCAL Exercises every month. Attend SACM VT medical classes and other required classes from our unit, the 141st and the 278th. Over all it has been a great experience and we are glad we are making a difference and taking part in history.



Sgt. 1st Class Pablo Lopez



Spc. Katie Rys



Sgt. Eric Watts

242nd Engineers go through Soldier Readiness Processing

STAFF SGT. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65TH PCH

When Connecticut Army National Guard units get the word that they are going to be called to active duty, they soon find out that they will be spending time at a mobilization station prior to actually deploying.

Because the 242nd Engineer Battalion has been alerted for possible mobilization, the Stratford-based battalion has begun the Soldier Readiness Processing that will be necessary if a mobilization becomes a reality.

At their regularly scheduled May drill, unit members went through many of the administrative steps that will be required before Soldiers may be cleared for active duty deployments. They found themselves taking care of paperwork, medical examinations and required briefings close to home – at Camp Rell in Niantic.

SRP is an important procedure for Soldiers, their units, their commanders and the Connecticut Army National Guard, according to Master Sgt. Marty Prior, who has been involved in coordinating these exercises for Connecticut Guard units for the past 18 months.

“The SRP, besides taking care of Soldiers, is important for the command,” Prior said. “A commander needs to know where his people stand.” Prior added that SRP is an early step in a deployment, but has a lasting impact throughout that deployment. “It’s more than a two-day period. For example, all of the paperwork from the SRP goes with them throughout the mobilization process.”

Nett Hall at Camp Rell housed most of the administrative stations for the SRP conducted for the 242nd, with personnel specialists going over paperwork, financial specialists assisting Soldiers with those matters, and various other requirements. The medical clinic was also very busy, as Soldiers requiring physicals and similar medical processing had those matters addressed by a large staff of medical professionals.

While all administrative stations must be completed by each individual Soldier, the medical requirements are among the most important. Pre-existing medical conditions can prevent Soldiers from deploying, so the SRP allows such matters to be addressed and corrected whenever possible, prior to the deployment date.

“The purpose is to weed out all non-deployable Soldiers or work out problems that would prevent Soldiers from deploying,” said CW2 Bill Cusack, health systems specialist and enlisted personnel manager for the Connecticut Army National Guard. “The intent is to make certain that there will be no problem when they arrive at the mobilization station.”

Cusack added that the mobilization station has limited responsibilities in a unit’s activation and deployment, meaning that the Connecticut Guard is required to send a unit that consists of deployable Soldiers.

“The mobilization station’s only



Sgt. Cecelia Peppers, JFHQ squares away Pfc. Rene Jean, Co. A, 242nd EN Bn with his SGLI paperwork during the Soldier Readiness Processing at Nett Hall at Camp Rell. The 242nd is undergoing the SRP in preparation for deployment in the Global War on Terrorism. (Photo by Maj. Lou Martinez, 65th PCH)

requirement is to make sure there are no problems, prior to sending the unit overseas,” Cusack said.

Holding an SRP well in advance of a possible deployment gives the unit and the Connecticut Guard enough lead time to correct problems that can be corrected, Cusack said.

Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, thousands of Citizen-Soldiers have gone through the process in order to serve in the Global War on Terror. The frequency of assignments for those who conduct Soldier Readiness Processing for the Connecticut Army National Guard has kept them busy, but the experience has led to a more efficient operation, Prior said.

The SRP process run by the Connecticut Guard has come a long way in the past couple of years, according to a Soldier who went through it with a different unit more than two years ago.

“It’s more organized, the people know what they’re doing and they’re conveying the information on to the Soldiers (of the 242nd) in a very understandable manner,” said CW2 Ken Jambor, who will deploy with the 242nd as the battalion motor officer.

He said that in his previous SRP experience in January 2003, members of the 250th Engineer Company had to go home and gather

paperwork or call home to have documents faxed in. This time there was a pre-deployment checklist telling the Soldiers what they needed to bring this weekend, he said.

Jambor also said that he was impressed with the way Camp Rell was set up for the weekend drill. “This, for all intents and purposes, is a deployment station. Nobody has to go anywhere, even for physicals.”

This was the largest SRP conducted by the CTARNG since the massive activation and deployment in support of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Utah, according to Cusack.

For 292 members of the 242nd Engineer Battalion, the SRP was done on a two-day weekend drill.

In order to make this happen, members of the SRP team have to put in plenty of work before the actual SRP, Prior said. “We probably spent a month on this one, although some of the individuals might have spent more time than that.”

Medical records are screened for pre-existing conditions and to determine who needs what immunizations, according to Prior. Personnel records are studied to verify proper military occupational specialties and other important data related

to mission requirements.

“The better you set up the Soldier, the better the chances of success in theater,” Prior said.

In explaining the round robin type of setup for the SRP, Prior mentioned the “hurry up and wait” aspect of the military. He said that Soldiers were told that when there was an opening at one of the approximately 14 stations, that they should simply go to it and get that particular requirement taken care of.

One Soldier who had never experienced an SRP or even a mobilization exercise took it all in stride.

“It brings back memories of basic training and the reception station – doing things that are pretty tedious, but necessary,” said Spc. Tom Lexington, who has been with the 242nd for three years. He brought along a book to read while waiting in between stations. “I keep an open mind and I don’t ask that many questions.”

Jambor said that he has some homework to do based upon his dental exam on the weekend. He said that he will be getting two wisdom teeth pulled now, just to make sure that they will not present a problem in case the unit mobilizes.

Many thanks given at 56th annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon

OC JESSE J. STANLEY
65th PCH

There was one setting for each branch of the service. A single red rose was the centerpiece representing blood and sacrifice; A bible for strength of faith. A glass inverted because they cannot toast with those present. On the plate a slice of lemon to remind those gathered of the bitter fate the missing faced also on that plate, salt from the tears shed for the lost.

At the 56th annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon held at Aqua Turf, on May 20, those who could not be there were not forgotten. A table set for those who could not attend the event was beside the head table. It was representative of the POWs and MIAs who could not dine with their brothers and sisters in arms.

This event is the only function to bring together all of the services. It was created in

1949 to express the unification of all the military under a single department of the government.

The governor began with a thank you to the troops.

"Thank you for all that you do, for the service to your country, your sacrifice, your courage and most important to every person in this room, thank you for preserving our freedom," Gov. M. Jodi Rell said.

Five people were honored at the event for their service.

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory LeBeau, a platoon sergeant from C Co. 1-102nd Infantry was honored for his exemplary work as a platoon sergeant. In recent operations he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service and an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for valorous service during an ambush.

Master Sgt. Kevin A. Massey, an Aircraft

Element Supervisor for the "B" Flight, 103rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was honored for his continued service and actions while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In recent operations he received an Air Force Commendation Medal for his actions while deployed.

Staff Sgt. Jed Joseph Carter was reassigned to the 405th Combat Support Hospital in 2004 and was mobilized as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. As a combat medic he has participated in many exercises throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Eric J. Pimer, currently assigned to the USCG Station in New Haven, recently had to medivac a woman suffering from a broken leg and a seizure from a sail boat in New London Harbor. He demonstrated excellent skills and outstanding judgment in safely and quickly

transferring her from the harbor to an ambulance on shore.

Petty Officer Patrick J. Gill is the leading petty officer and administrative officer at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Plainville, Conn. In March 2004, he was selected as NSSF's Service Person of the month for his outstanding community service to Habitat for Humanity.

Petty Officer Richard Hackett, Jr, is serving as a first lieutenant at the Submarine Base, New London. He was honored for his continued exemplary service.

Gov. Rell thanked the honorees as well.

"Good job, we are proud of you," Rell said. "Keep up the good work you are doing and know that your commander and chief are behind you 100 percent. Thank you very much."



Robert Galvin, Commissioner, Connecticut Dept. of Public Health and keynote speaker, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory LeBeau, 1-102nd Inf., Brig. Gen. Thad Martin, acting



Master Sgt. Kevin A. Massey stands with Brig. Gen. Thad Martin, acting Adjutant General

and Col. Daniel Peabody, Cmdr. 103rd Fighter Wing as he is honored at the 56th annual Armed Forces Day Luncheon. (Photo by OC Jesse J. Stanley, 65th PCH)



Gov. M. Jodi Rell gave thanks to the service members and their families for the sacrifices they made to ensure the freedom for all Americans. (Photo by OC Jesse J. Stanley, 65th PCH)



The 103rd Fighter Wing's base honor guard marched with precision as they raised the colors to mark the start of the luncheon. (Photo by OC Jesse J. Stanley, 65th PCH)

From a sea of strangers to a group of friends

COMMANDER KYLE F. KAKER
SPACE AND NAVAL WARFARE SYSTEMS COMMAND

I expected great things from Connecticut's 143rd Area Support Group.

Another Navy officer, who at that time was serving in the palace, told me what to expect here, as I sat on the edge of my chair in California, getting ready to deploy. He told me about the daily mortar and rocket attacks. He said, "Last night we were having cigars at the pool when bombs started falling nearby. It happens all the time." (He had my full attention.)

"Daily?" I asked. "Yep" he said, as I swallowed nervously and as my palms began to sweat. This was shortly after the now-famous Fallujah campaign and shortly after the arrival of the 143rd.

I then asked him about my coworkers.

"They are a great group" he said, referring to the Connecticut Guardsmen. I was pleased to hear that. He told me, "Practically all the people in Joint Area Support Group, where you'll be working, are from Connecticut. They run a medium-sized city, but have the added challenge of doing that in a combat zone."

That 'city' is, of course, the International Zone, or "IZ" but the media likes to refer to it as the Green Zone. I became curious about the 143rd ASG and searched for info about them on the internet. I was impressed in reading about their remarkable send-off, as they headed off for war.

The 143rd is indeed a great group, as I've learned since my arrival on New Year's Day. They could, in my opinion, run just about any big city in America. They do every kind

of support from utilities, to financial management, to security and a wide assortment of daily operations. They have a great legal team.

Their jobs are complicated by an unlimited number of variables from enemy fire, to lengthy delays in the arrival of necessary logistics items; events that are pretty inconceivable in the course of routine of life in the U.S. In this dynamic environment, things change on a moment's notice and coping with that takes good organizational skills, flexibility, and a buoyant sense of humor.

Perhaps some of the 143rd's success comes as a result of trial by fire, but I believe their notable performance reflects directly on the skills, professionalism, and strong educational backgrounds that abound throughout the Guard and Reserve.

Paraphrasing Will Rogers, "I never met a Connecticut Guardsman I didn't like." I met a sea of strangers and in a short period of time, have acquired a group of friends.

Bill Daugherty, my sidekick, is a good friend with a mind like a steel trap. His ability to remember fine details is remarkable.

Joe McGowan is a gifted leader who has

supplied a lot of personal energy to supporting the local schools with donations from back home. He is also a reliable supplier of Dunkin' Donuts coffee, a commodity as good as gold here.

Col. Mascolo and Al Higuera across the hall are a great source of late-breaking info, as are Doug Sutter and his group of

intelligence experts next door. Bob Henry is a frequent dinner partner, especially for the early-bird special.

Brandi Walter and Derek Solla, located a few feet away, share cookies from home while fixing my computer. I couldn't ask for a better deal than that. Mike

Wieczorek is sure to get the job done while making big contributions to morale. Jeff Connelly is of that same mold.

Col. Francik and Mike Casey, our real estate barons, display boundless energy as they dart around the IZ in their never-ending routine of horse-trading properties. John Wiltse at the Al Rasheed is a man on the move, too, and few people could handle his daily pace. First Sgt. Allsop and I have had some strikingly similar experiences, I have learned, and I count him among my good friends. It was recently said of Steve Madej

that he can get 'anything' done.

These Nutmeggers, most of whom work in my immediate area, or with whom I work on a daily basis, and others too numerous to mention by name, are led by Col. Tom Stefanko, a caring, capable leader who takes his demanding role in stride.

I was told I'd be impressed with the Soldiers from Newington and I have come to appreciate that truth. These young Americans, male and female, from all walks of life, and from across your state, are risking their lives on a daily basis while selflessly assisting the Iraqi people in the establishment of their fledgling nation.

One day the Iraqis will be able to manage themselves and America's work here will be done here, but the Connecticut 143rd will have made its mark on the history of Iraq. The 143rd played a an important part in helping to jumpstart a new democracy in the heart of the Middle East, a feat that would have been inconceivable just a few years ago.

Today that fact is part of the saga of American military history. As the years go by, I'll take evermore pride in being able to say that I knew the Soldiers of the Connecticut 143rd and they were my comrades. I know Connecticut is and will forever be equally proud of its fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters. They are fine warriors who answered the call.

(Commander Kyle F. Kaker is a sailor and hails from Wisconsin. He is serving in Iraq on temporary duty from his assignment at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, in San Diego.)

I was told I'd be impressed with the Soldiers from Newington and I have come to appreciate that truth. These young Americans, male and female, from all walks of life, and from across your state, are risking their lives on a daily basis while selflessly assisting the Iraqi people in the establishment of their fledgling nation.



Col. Thomas Stefanko, center right, prepares to take command of the Joint Area Support Group in Baghdad during ceremonies held at the palace headquarters. Stefanko is commander of the 143rd Area Support Group, Connecticut National Guard. (Photo courtesy 143rd ASG)

Senior Airman Gunther selected for Command Chief's Award

LT. COL. PAMELA K. TITUS
JFHQ-CT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Command Chief's Award was presented to Senior Airman Keith Gunther of the 103^d Air Control Squadron at the Connecticut Air National Guard Awards Ceremony on May 14, 2005.

Gunther volunteered in August 2004 to serve in the National Capital Region supporting Operation Noble Eagle and Homeland Defense. His expertise in Aerospace Control and Warning Systems made him a desired candidate for any deployment.

He is qualified as an Electronic Protection and Surveillance Technician and has completed his qualification training for Initial Qualification Instructor.

"He was an integral part of the Multi Battle Group In-port Exercise. (MBGIE) in February," said Lt Col Joseph D. Hammer, commander of the 103^d ACS.

MBGIE was an exercise that included several battle groups of the US Navy, field units from the US Army, and squadrons from the US Air Force.

Gunther previously deployed to Khandahar, Afghanistan in 2003.

Gunther is a student at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven Conn., majoring in Exercise Science and Teaching. "His major enables him to be a solid leader and instructor for new Airmen that are in training," said Hammer.

In addition to his scholastic work, Gunther is working towards his private pilots license. He is also member of the SCSU track team and is ranked as a top vaulter in the New England Division II Conference. His success at SCSU enables him to coach at West Milford High School in New Jersey. Gunther also mentors students at his church and he traveled with his church to Mexico in 2004 to help build new worship facilities.

Marino selected as CTANG Junior Officer of the Year

LT. COL. PAMELA K. TITUS
JFHQ-CT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Connecticut Air National Guard Junior Officer Award was presented to Capt. Guy Marino of the 103^d Air Control Squadron at the Connecticut Air National Guard Awards Ceremony on May 14, 2005.

Marino was instrumental in the planning and deployment of the unit to the National Capital Region and he served as the Air Force Liaison Officer between the Army Integrated Air Defense System and the Northeast Air Defense Sector in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Marino also supported the 133rd Test Squadron during the Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment exercise conducted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Marino was instrumental in the execution of this exercise because of his extensive knowledge of Data Links. He was designated as the Regional Interface Control Officer responsible for ensuring that all players, including AWACS, Rivet Joint, F-15's and F-16's, had an accurate air picture.

"He has demonstrated all the professional qualities looked for in an Air National Guard officer of exceptional leadership, comprehensive technical expertise and superior management skills," said Lt. Col. Joseph D. Hammner, commander of the 103^d ACS. "His abilities far exceed his rank."

Marino is the system training program



Capt. Guy Marino

officer, responsible for planning and coordinating all operations training exercises for the 103^d ACS.

Marino enlisted in the US Air Force in 1984 as a Security Forces Specialist. He joined the Connecticut Air National Guard in 1985 as a Surveillance Technician with the 103^d ACS. He was commissioned in 1998. In 2000, he became a full-time technician and has spent much of his time activated or deployed.

Old Timers Day

"2005 Old Timers Day" for all retired or previous members of the Flying Yankees Bradley ANG Base Dining Facility June 15, 2005 at 11 a.m.

Tickets are \$10, send to Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Ron Palmer, PO Box 92, Glastonbury, CT 06033

For more information contact the Chairman, Col. (Ret.) George Arvanetaki, 603-478-0158 or email eaglenests@comcast.net

Air Force finalizes new utility uniform

TECH. SGT. DAVID A. JABLONSKI
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

Blue and green tiger stripes are out; the digitized pattern with subdued green, tan, blue and gray is in.

After reviewing more than 150,000 bits of feedback throughout the initial seven-month wear test of the proposed utility uniform, Air Force leaders recently decided to eliminate the original color scheme and conduct a limited field test of the new pattern.

Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June.

"The sole purpose of the test will be to see if we can add any features to the uniform to make it a better uniform in the field and to determine if the new colors (and) pattern provide camouflage protection they need in the field," said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Airmen who participated in the initial wear test stopped wearing the more vibrant blue-green uniform March 1.

The original wear test involved more than 700 Airmen at 32 bases worldwide who kept detailed daily logs annotating likes,

dislikes and wash-and-wear problems. They also completed three surveys.

"Throughout the test, Air Force leaders actively solicited feedback from testers and observers alike to ensure this uniform developed into one that fit the needs of today's Airmen," Athnos said.

"There were several avenues for feedback, ensuring that the (Air Force) chief of staff had realistic facts when making the final decision on the uniform," she said.

Those avenues included a survey sent to 45,000 Airmen, a Web site and direct e-mail to the uniform board.

"Some comments were positive, some were negative — all of them were provided directly to the chief of staff," Athnos said.

The uniform is scheduled to be procured in mid-2005, officials said. Airmen can expect to purchase the uniform sometime in fiscal 2007. The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years.



Air Force officials released photos of the latest version of the proposed Air Force utility uniform. Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski)



Connecticut Military Department News

Foot Guard awards medals at Prize Drill

Sgt. Mark Boudreau
First Company Governor's Foot Guard
Public Affairs

First Company Governor's Foot Guard, under the command of Maj. Commandant Dennis Conroy, held its annual prize drill on Monday, May 16 at the Foot Guard Armory on High Street in Hartford. The evening's events consisted of a short concert by the Foot Guard Band, squad drills and an evening parade at which the awards were presented, following squad and individual competitions judged by Col. Daniel J. McHale and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Daniel G. Norkun of the Connecticut Military Department. Other Governor's Guards units were represented by Maj. Peter C. Jenkin, Maj. Commandant of the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard of New Haven, Capt. Steve Meltzer, Executive Officer of the First Company Governor's Horse Guard of Avon and Capt. Gary Marks, Executive Officer of the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard of Newtown. Conroy accepted a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard by The Honorable Eric Crawford, Connecticut's 2005 Black Governor.

Conroy announced Cpl. Gary Kleszczewski of Middletown was awarded the Brig. Gen. Justin A. Denino Rifleman of the Year Medal. Established by Mrs. Ellie Denino and her family, the award is presented to the Foot Guard member who has demonstrated efforts for the continued success of the Foot Guard Rifle team. The medal serves as a reminder of the dedication of Denino as a member and past Commandant of the First Company.

Kleszczewski was also awarded the George W. Tule Bandsmen of the Year medal. This award is presented to the band member or members who continue to perform above the call of duty, as voted on by their peers in the Foot Guard Band.

Sgt. Michael Pepin from East Hartford was awarded the Cold Stream Guard Medal as the drill sergeant of the company's prize winning squad. Members of the prize squad compete and demonstrate military marching and manual of arms movements.

Cp. Charles (Chuck) Dortenzio of Southington was awarded the Frank E. Wilcox Medal as the best-drilled soldier within the First Company. This award is generally regarded as the most prestigious by members of the rifle platoons of the command.

Conroy awarded Governor's Foot Guard Long Service Medals to the following members



Members of the First Company compete in the prize drill and are judged by Col. Dan McHale and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Dan Norkun. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. Kevin Cormack, 1GFG)

of the command for the length of service indicated:

Sgt. Ivar Anderson of Manchester	50 years
Maj. Norman Booth of West Hartford	35 years
Capt. John Delbone of Canton	30 years
Maj. Phillip Kennedy of West Hartford	30 years
Master Sgt. Max Covell of Manchester	30 years
Staff Sgt. Tommy Donza of Wethersfield	30 years
Maj. Joseph Petronella of Enfield	25 years

Several other members of the command were awarded medals for long service ranging from five-to-20 years.

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard, established in 1771, is the oldest military organization in continuous existence in the United States.

First Company GFG provides colors for Black Governor's Ball



First Company Governor's Foot Guard Color Guard, led by Color Sergeant William Leonard, at the Black Governor's Ball held at the Bond Hotel ballroom on April 9. The ball followed the black governor's election held at the Old State House in Hartford and a procession from the Old State House to the Bond Hotel. (Photos courtesy of Michael Dukes)



Good Luck Company G, 126th Aviation

New officer, enlisted career

SPC. JORDAN E. WERME
65th PCH

In the modern era of National Guard mobilizations, it has become more important than ever to have well-trained and effective Soldiers. The Soldiers who will fill those roles in the enlisted and officer ranks begin the journey with the 169th Leadership Regiment, Camp Rell.

"We provide instructor, personnel and logistical support to the OCS and NCOES education system," said Command Sgt. Major Joseph J. Sevigny, 169th Regt. "It is ours to provide a level of training specifically to support the individual's needs."

That training includes entry-level recruit training, non-commissioned officer advancement schools, and officer candidate school, among others.

In today's Guard climate, the fresh corps of enlisted Soldiers and the next generation of officers are two of the highest priorities.

For enlisting privates, the first step on the road to becoming a Soldier is taken with the staff at the Recruit Holding Command. The Holding company is charged with preparing Soldiers for the rigors of basic combat training and advanced individual training.

"When you first sign up on the delayed-entry program," said Sgt. 1st Class August Defrance, Basic Training Orientation Course manager and non-commissioned officer in charge, Recruit Holding Company, "your very first drill you show up here. They have no military experience whatsoever. The drill sergeants give them a basis for what they're going to endure at basic training."

The Recruit Holding program consists of three phases, said Defrance. First is BTOC. New Soldiers hit the ground running at Camp Rell by taking a scaled-down version the Army Physical Fitness Test in which each recruit will do push-ups and sit-ups for one minute each and run a one-mile course. These diagnostic tests will continue each drill weekend while the Soldier remains with Recruit Holding.

During BTOC, recruits are also given instruction in areas such as drill and ceremonies and military bearing.

The new Soldier enters Phase One of the program to start his second drill weekend. During this phase, training is expanded to include basic first aid and other common core tasks, said Defrance.

A Soldier on split option training will then go on to BCT, and upon completion will return to the Holding Company for Phase Two. During this phase, the Soldier will have the opportunity to train in areas such as land navigation, repel tower and obstacle courses.

"It gives them a basis for their military involvement," said Defrance.

Soldiers who decide to take a different route in their careers may opt to join the Officer Candidate program.

"The mission of the (Officer Candidate School) battalion is to ensure that the OCs have the skills, knowledge and attributes to be entrusted with the lives of the Soldiers under their future commands," said 1st Lt. Shaun O'Dea, TAC (Teach, Assess, Council) Officer, OCS Battalion.

The OCS program has just begun its 51st class with more than 20 candidates currently enrolled, the highest total in five years, said O'Dea.

"Over the course of the three months that Phase Zero lasts," said O'Dea, "we progressively increase the stress levels to prepare the candidates for Phase One."

Phase Zero is an administrative period for the OCs, in which they are afforded the opportunity to ensure all of the prerequisites for the program have been met. Any Soldier wishing to attend OCS must meet all of the following requirements: be age 18-29 (waiver available through age 39), be a United States citizen or have submitted an application for citizenship, have a minimum of 60 college credits (90 credits are needed to accept commissioning upon graduation), have a Secret security clearance, pass a Chapter

Two physical examination, obtain a letter of recommendation from your company commander, score a minimum of 110 on the GT portion of the ASVAB, a minimum of 850 on the SAT or 19 on the ACT.

Upon completion of Phase Zero, the candidates move into Phase One, a two-week annual training period where units from all the New England states, New York and New Jersey come together at Camp Rell for consolidated training.

"Phase One sets the operating climate for OCS," said O'Dea. On the academic side, the candidates are exposed to areas such as Army Training Management, land-navigation and Pre-Commissioning Common Core Tasks. And stress levels are elevated.

"OCS utilizes a hands-on approach to training, giving the candidates an opportunity to conduct leadership during evaluated periods," said O'Dea. "That consists of all the mid-month planning that leads up to the training, so the candidates drive the training in this program. This is an opportunity for them to be placed into leadership and staff positions and gather that first-hand experience and be afforded the opportunity to make the mistakes and be corrected in a safe environment."

After Phase One, each unit returns to its home state to begin Phase Two, a 10-month IDT period in which the candidates will gather for one drill weekend each month to continue the training they began in Phase One.

In June the region consolidates once again for Phase Three, a two-week period at Fort Benning, Georgia. The candidates spend more than half of the training in the field, putting to use all of the skills they have spent the last year learning, said O'Dea.

"The staff here is dedicated to incorporating real-world scenarios into the training," said O'Dea. "We are also dedicated to taking the lessons learned here and applying them to real-world situations. We try to always incorporate our lessons learned into the up-tempo that the Guard is at right now."

A successful graduate of OCS must then be selected by a federal recognition board before being offered a commission as second lieutenant, and then has up to 24 months to accept the commission and begin a career as an officer.

While the 169th Regt. currently offers courses designed to further just about every Soldier's career, more opportunities are just around the corner.

"We anticipate involvement in more areas and in other MOSs and NCOES," said Sevigny, "possibly the [Warrant Officer Course] and definitely OCS."



1st Lt. Shaun O'Dea instructs the current Phase Zero candidates on proper formation procedure. During OCS the candidates are given different leadership positions to ensure that each candidate gains experience in different officer roles. (Photo by SPC. JORDAN E. WERME, 65th PCH)



Staff Sgt. William B. Melanson addresses Soldiers in the Basic Training Orientation group after completing a one-mile run. The Soldiers assigned to the Recruit Holding Company are required to complete physical fitness tests until completion of initial entry training. (Photo by SPC. JORDAN E. WERME, 65th PCH)



Soldiers assigned to the Recruit Holding Company participate in monthly physical fitness tests until completion of initial entry training. As part of the learning process, Soldiers will occasionally act as scorers for the diagnostic tests. (Photo by SPC. JORDAN E. WERME, 65th PCH)

(Photo by SPC. JORDAN E. WERME, 65th PCH)
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Jordan E. Werme, 65th



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o by Spc. Jordan E.
e, 65th PCH)



Officer Candidates with Class 51 do pull-ups before heading in to chow. The pull-ups are part of the Lines of Knowledge exercise, in which candidates are quizzed on general military and officer corps knowledge as reinforcement to training and motivation. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)



Recruiting & Retention: Mission One

DoD changes report date for recruiting data

GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Armed services recruiting information, including that of the reserve components, will now be made available to the public on the 10th day of each month, a Pentagon spokeswoman noted on June 2.

For example, military recruiting data for May will be available on June 10, Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke said.

The change was made to ensure a more consistent release of recruiting information, Krenke said. That wasn't necessarily the case under the previous policy, she said.

In the past, recruiting information usually was made available to the public on the first day of each month, Krenke explained. However, reserve component data sometimes wasn't available until the middle of the month, she said.

"The service personnel chiefs have said that they can have their numbers ready by the 10th of each month, and that's what we're going to do," Krenke said.

She noted the change also provides DoD leaders more time to review recruiting data before it is released.

"Military recruiting is instrumental to our readiness and merits the earliest release of data," Krenke said. However, she noted, "this information must be reasonably scrutinized" by DoD leaders before it's released for public consumption.

ASG inducts Soldiers into NCO Corps in Iraq



The Joint Area Support Group Noncommissioned Officer Corps held an NCO Induction Ceremony at the Presidential Palace March 10. This event was held to induct newly promoted Noncommissioned Officers from all services within the Group into the NCO Corps. A combination of eleven service members from the Army, Navy and Air Force were inducted. Command Sgt. Maj. Jeff Mellinger, Command Sergeant Major of the Multi National Force-Iraq was the guest speaker. (Photo courtesy 143rd ASG, Iraq)

Recently Retired?

Consider coming back to the Connecticut National Guard.

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Visit the

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www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Have you recruited anyone today?

Recruiting is everyone's responsibility.

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Do you know some talented musicians? Invite them to sit in with the 102d Army Band

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May 22

June 25

June 26

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If they enlist they can receive \$6000 and join as an E3

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Military Matters



Nowadays, many couples are choosing to postpone starting families in order to focus on careers, travel or other activities. Other couples are enduring years of fertility treatments in the hopes of conceiving a child. Whatever the reason, if you are a woman over the age of 35 and are expecting a baby, there are certain risks that you should understand.

As age increases, fertility decreases while the odds of multiple births increase. Older women who are expecting a child should increase their intake of folic acid, cut back on caffeine, eat a balanced diet, exercise regularly, refrain from using tobacco or alcohol products and receive regular prenatal care.

Pre-eclampsia

Pre-eclampsia is characterized by high blood pressure and the presence of excess protein in the urine. This condition usually occurs after the 20th week of pregnancy, and is more common in first pregnancies and in women over the age of 35.

Symptoms of pre-eclampsia can include abnormal swelling, sudden weight gain, blurred vision, headaches, dizziness and stomach pain, although most women will experience no symptoms.

The only treatment for pre-eclampsia is delivery of the baby. If the condition is detected early, bed rest and careful monitoring are likely until the baby can be

Complications of pregnancy in older women

delivered. After delivery, blood pressure usually returns to normal without any lasting

Gestational Diabetes

Diabetes is a condition in which the body does not produce enough insulin or cannot properly use the insulin that it does produce. As a result, blood sugar levels can rise to dangerous levels. Gestational diabetes occurs when the placenta produces a hormone that interferes with the body's insulin. It affects approximately three to five percent of all pregnancies, with older mothers at a higher risk. Fortunately, gestational diabetes usually disappears after the baby is born.

Symptoms of gestational diabetes can include extreme thirst or fatigue, but most women will not experience any symptoms. Routine prenatal exams will usually include blood sugar testing. If gestational diabetes is not controlled, there is a risk of delivering a baby with a higher birth weight due to the extra sugars present during gestation.

Diet and exercise can help to reduce the risk of gestational diabetes, and staying healthy during pregnancy offers additional benefits to both mother and baby. Your doctor can help you to find a diet and exercise program that will be beneficial to you and your baby.

Placenta Previa

The placenta is normally located either on the sides or the roof of the uterus; with placenta previa, the placenta attaches near the cervix or covers it completely. This condition occurs in approximately one out of every 200 pregnancies, although the risk is

higher for women over the age of 35.

Bleeding during the third trimester is one symptom of placenta previa, but most women do not experience any symptoms. Routine ultrasounds will usually be able to detect the location of the placenta.

Treatment may include reduced activity levels or even bed rest until the baby is delivered. With placenta previa, delivery by cesarean section is recommended.

Down syndrome

Older women are at an increased risk of delivering babies with chromosomal abnormalities, such as Down syndrome. With this condition, the baby is born with an extra chromosome, which leads to birth defects and mental retardation.

Chromosomal abnormalities can be detected through an amniocentesis, but this test carries a small risk of miscarriage. It can also be revealed through Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS), a procedure in which a small piece of the placenta is removed for testing.

Miscarriage

Miscarriage is the loss of a baby before the 20th week of pregnancy, although most occur by the 12th week of pregnancy. There are a number of reasons that a miscarriage can occur; they are usually the result of the fetus not developing properly.

The risk of a miscarriage increases as the age of the mother increases.

Call us for the support that you need. 1-888-290-4EAP (TDD: 1800-697-0353) or go to www.GuidanceResources.com.

CTNG Equal Opportunity / Diversity Training

LT. COL. SPYROS SPANOS
HR/EO OFFICER

On 2-3 April 2-3 the Connecticut National Guard held its first Joint Forces Equal Opportunity / Diversity Training. The training took place at the Newington VA Hospital which is where the CTNG Human Resources Office is located. The two-day program was designed to follow a building block approach, using instructional segments on intrapersonal awareness, interpersonal communications and organizational behavior. The training was truly integrated as we had four Connecticut Army instructors and four Connecticut Air instructors.

In attendance, we had almost fifty Soldiers and Airmen covering key EO topics such as; prevention of sexual harassment, NG complaint procedures, consideration of others, valuing diversity, mobilizations, unit climate assessments, EO inspections, ethnic observances and various practical exercises.

Our goal for this training was to enhance everyone's awareness of the contemporary EO, diversity and human relations issues was accomplished as we witnessed numerous interactions among students and instructors along with a heightened EO awareness level. These EO Soldiers/Airmen are now at your unit ready, willing and able to ensure a positive work environment. If you need any assistance or would like EO guidance please contact your units Equal Opportunity Representatives (EOR-Army) or Military Equal Opportunity Office (MEO-Air).

It is National Guard's policy to provide equal opportunity for National Guard military personnel or applicants for membership in the National Guard. The National Guard will not be subjected to illegal discrimination because of race, color, religion, gender (to include sexual harassment), national origin, or reprisal for having participated in a protected equal opportunity activity.

We, in the office of Equal Opportunity, look forward to working with you all and don't hesitate to contact our office with any EO/Diversity questions.

"All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talents."

*John Fitzgerald Kennedy
35th President of the U.S.*

Education Essentials

Active Duty Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance (TA) for active duty service members (AGR's included) is managed by the Fort Devens Army Continuing Education Services Office. DA Form 2171 must be completed and forwarded to the Ft. Devens ACES Office for payment. The AGR system uses the DA Form 2171 while the M-Day program uses the DA Form 2171-e ("e" stands for electronic). The Points of contact are Judi Scipione or Joe Jacoby. They can be contacted by phone at CIV (978) 796-2354 / 3585 or DSN 256-2354 / 3586.

Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, Army Continuing Education Services, 30 Quebec Street, Unit 23, Devens, MA 01432-4429

AGR's can always use the Connecticut Tuition Waiver program (state and veterans) at any CT State University/College in association with the Active Duty Tuition Assistance program.

HELPUFULEDUCATIONWEBSITES:

www.virtualarmory.com (ARNG education pgms & POCs, online applications for Federal TA & ESC svcs)

www.GIBILL.va.gov (Info on VA education benefits / Veterans' Administration)

www.dantes.doded.mil.gov (TTT, Spouse to Teacher, pubs, Ed Ctr locations, testing & certification pgms)

www.soc.asscu.org (SOCGuard, college liaison, accreditation, educ mobilization issues, State ed laws +)

www.military.com (another guide to GI Bill / VA pgms & military educational benefits)

Federal Tuition Assistance ONLINE APPLICATION

WWW.VirtualArmory.Com

WHAT IS VIRTUAL ARMORY.COM?

Virtual Armory.Com is the newest, fastest and easiest way to file for your Federal Tuition Assistance. (FTA)

How do I apply for money?

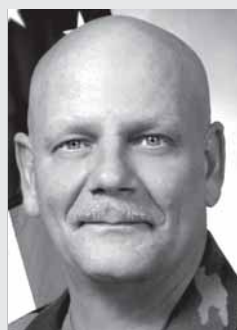
- First sign onto the web site www.virtualarmory.com
- Second "Register" yourself as an ARNG member.
- Then select the "Education" link.
- Click on the "Online Applications" drop down menu.
- Select the "Federal Tuition Assistance".
- After that just fill in all the needed information

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I FILL OUT MY DA FORM 2171-E ON VIRTUAL ARMORY.COM?

After you submit your information it is processed into the system, the Education Office takes care of the rest.

AS OF FISCAL YEAR 2006 REGISTRATION ON VIRTUAL ARMORY.COM IS REQUIRED.

Any questions can be answered at the Education Office at
(860) 524-4820/4816



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURY

Enlisted Update

Leaders know importance of safety, recruiting, retention

As units of the Connecticut National Guard begin to prepare for and conduct Annual Training it is imperative that all leaders practice and utilize good Risk Management procedures. All leaders need to use the ARNG Hasty Risk Management Cards (NGB Form 100-14-2). Risk Management applies to all situations and environments across the wide range of Army operations, activities and processes. Risk Management is useful in developing, fielding and employing the total Army force. Risk Management assists a commander or leader in conserving lives and resources and avoiding unnecessary risk. Risk Management assists leaders in making an informed decision to implement a Course of Action, identifying feasible and effective control measures where specific standards do not exist and provides reasonable alternatives for mission accomplishment. Risk Management identifies and controls hazards before they become accidents. The following five steps are applied: 1. Identify the Hazard, 2. Assess the Hazard, 3. Develop Controls and Make RISK Decisions, 4. Implement Controls and 5. Supervise and Evaluate. Safety First!

Another safety initiative worth mentioning is the online Defensive Driving Course. I urge all Soldiers to take this course. It could mean lower car insurance rates when you present the certificate of completion to your individual car insurance company. Most importantly it may even save lives. The information on how to enroll and complete the course follows:

New Students -

1. Go to www.safetyserve.com/arng
2. Click on "New Student" and then click "New Student Registration".
3. Type in "CT1086" as your ACCESS CODE and click on "Submit".
4. You will be presented with a registration page. Type in your information, including a Login ID and a password of your choice, and click on "Submit".
5. You will be presented with the "My Place" page. Click on Health and Safety and then click on NSC Defensive Driving under available courses to begin the course.

I will monitor the progress of Connecticut Army National Guard members participation in this program.

The strength of the Connecticut National Guard continues to be my "Top Priority." All Soldiers and Airmen need to take a proactive measures and help to build up our strength.

I am asking all Connecticut National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, Officers and Enlisted to get one person to enlist into our Guard. The future of the Connecticut National Guard depends upon our ability to increase our strength to authorized manning. Both the Army and Air are currently below their authorized strength levels. It will take a concerted effort from all of us to bring our strength up to where we need to be. Recruiting is everyone's business.

Also, we all need to continue to retain our Soldiers and Airmen. Every Soldier and Airman that is retained within our ranks helps to keep our organization ready to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Retention also

has a direct impact on recruiting. Recruiters will not have to recruit as many Soldiers and Airmen if we retain those that are already members of our organization. Leaders must ensure they do everything possible to retain our qualified Soldier and Airmen. They are our most valuable asset. They deserve good training and mentoring. Mentoring helps the Guard by ensuring a continuing supply of outstanding leaders who have been mentored by the leaders who went before them.

If leaders use the skills they learn today, they will be able to conduct counseling sessions that advise, direct and encourage all Soldiers and Airmen to be great Guardsmen. We can make positive changes through counseling. Counseling is one-on-one communication with a subordinate that is intended to help that Soldier and/or Airman develop. Different counseling sessions may have different specific goals, but all counseling serves the same basic purpose – to develop great Soldiers and Airmen by encouraging positive behaviors or by discouraging specific negative behaviors.

Counseling is important. Good counseling will lead to unit readiness and develop the future leadership of the unit. Good counseling will also fight attrition. When you spend one-on-one time with each of your Soldiers and/or Airman, they'll feel like an important member of the team, and you'll be able to nip any potential problems in the bud.

Counseling is for the Soldier's and Airmen's benefit. It is a tool to help you empower your Soldiers and Airmen to reach individual and organizational goals. Keep in touch with your Soldiers and Airmen to combat ATTRITION. Leaders, stay focused on Training and Mentoring your people on a continuing basis. Every Soldier and Airman counts!

I visit Camp Rell every month to speak with our newest members of the Connecticut Army National Guard during the Basic Training Orientation Course, (BTOC). First and foremost I thank each and every one of them for joining our organization. Everyone should be proud of the fact that our newest members are true patriots. Most of our new members tell me they joined the Guard as a way to serve our State and Country.

This is unlike years ago, when many young people joined the Connecticut National Guard primarily for the college education benefits. I encourage them all by telling them that they have the opportunity to be the future leaders of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

I let them know that they will make a difference if they stay focused on their training. They are our future trainers and leaders and I feel comfortable that they all will step up to the plate and help to keep our Guard relevant for many years.

In June we will welcome home the members of the 118th Medical Battalion at their first drill since they redeployed in February. Also in June we will deploy members from Co G (-) 126th Aviation.

I ask you to continue to keep all our Deployed Soldiers and Airmen in your thoughts and prayers. They all continue to perform their duties with great dedication and in an outstanding manner.

Guard Voices

Give a 'hero's welcome' this Memorial Day

Over the course of the past two years, I've been on two deployments that took me to Afghanistan and Iraq and nearly everywhere in between.

After completing each of those deployments, I was able to come home to family and friends to what seemed to me like a "hero's welcome." I, however, do not feel like a hero.

Why? It is a fact that came to me once again as I was returning home from my most recent deployment to Uzbekistan just a few weeks ago.

I was heading home from that deployment on what some call the "freedom bird." The plane made a stop in Germany for a short refueling layover. While there, I ran across numerous Army troops who were returning to the United States from their deployment to Tikrit, Iraq.

While waiting in line at the terminal exchange to pay for a desert camouflage pillow I wanted for the remaining flight home, I noticed in front of me an Army first sergeant who was in charge of the Army troops while they were waiting for a separate flight. So as is my nature, I struck up a conversation with this first sergeant.

I asked him about his group of Soldiers and whether they were going home or going forward to a deployed location. He told me they were all from a unit from Fort Stewart, Ga., and they were heading home for "rest and relaxation" after seven months in Tikrit. That meant they would be going back.

I talked with him for several minutes before he said something I will never forget. He said, "I wish all of our Soldiers were coming home with us."

Immediately, I knew what he meant. He talked about Soldiers from his unit who died during combat action and of others who were wounded. He told me that on his ride home to that point he had been thinking of every one of those Soldiers and their families. I have to admit, he had me thinking of those Soldiers all the way home too.

My thinking and revelations from that chance meeting are still with me today along with many other memories of people I knew and have lost from my life because they gave their lives for my freedom.

The 2,000 or more miles that I flew on that plane until I got my welcome at home allowed for a lot of soul searching. I thought about the Air Force firefighter who died while trying to save some Iraqi children from a fire and how this Airman was honored throughout the area of responsibility by his fellow firefighters.

I also thought about a C-130 aircrew member who lost his spouse due to illness while he was deployed and how he went home to be with his two children who no longer had their mother. Little do we think of it sometimes, but families are just as important to a warfighter as the tools of his or her trade. Families and friends, especially of those who have lost a loved one during wartime, have to be the "heroes of home" and my never-ending salute goes out to them.

Most importantly, though, my heroes are those with whom I served who never came home to the welcome I received when I came home. That is why each year I mark Memorial Day as a special day.

Memorial Day was established just so we can remember our fallen comrades — our brothers and sisters in arms who never came home to see the tears in their spouses' or parent's eyes, or the welcoming smiles of children.

I encourage you to think about that and take time this Memorial Day to honor the heroes who never came home. Give them the "hero's welcome" they deserve.

(Editor's Note: This was forwarded to the Connecticut Guardian after Memorial Day.)

TECH. SGT. SCOTT T. STURKOL
319TH AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: *Reflections on Iraq*

CPL. JUAN REYES
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM

As a young enlisted Soldier in the late nineties the big "fear" of a possible deployment was a tour of duty in Bosnia. When time allowed my mind to wonder I would think to myself, "Six months in Bosnia doesn't sound too bad right about now..."

This is only because at the time I was in Iraq not for six months but for a year. Early in the deployment my attitude towards the deployment wasn't completely positive. I was happy with the direction my life was going and thought that a year in Iraq would be a year lost, a halt in my life.

When I stopped and thought about what was going on around me I realized that my life hadn't come to a halt but instead was going faster than ever before. I was in the Super Bowl of the military. Most of the things I missed about home had been right next to me the entire time. I had gained a new family of friends and associates who were there with me and were going to enjoy the good times and endure the difficult moments that were to come.

At uncomfortable times I sought and was able to find support from others around

me. Youth in our state go through difficult times and shifts everyday.

To them the war is not in Iraq, but instead their war may be a personal one, dealing with the pressures of growing up and fought not in a battlefield, but in school and their homes.

Unfortunately, and especially in our state's inner cities, children and youth run away each year, are victims of child abuse, domestic abuse or poverty, don't have access to computers society tells them is a must for their future, commit violence, return to empty homes, abuse drugs and alcohol or are kids having kids!

Some are lucky and have the proper support channels to deal with their issues, but what happens to those kids with no one to turn to?

Not necessarily because of bad parenting, but maybe for the mere fact that they may have to work long hours in order to support.

In our Guard itself, with so many of our force overseas there may be kids out there facing life's issues thinking there is no one really to turn to.

This is where I think community organizations can have a huge immeasurable effect on its youth. I say immeasurable because prevention isn't necessarily

measured in numbers.

Drugs and alcohol in our youth are a problem that we will never be able to stop but simply deter just long enough for that child to grow out of that "at risk" age of middle to high school.

If a child or teen can go to a Boys and Girls club or an after school program instead of an empty house or hanging out in the streets, that child has that much greater a chance of staying just within that thin line that leads to a positive outcome in his or her life.

Working with the Drug Demand Reduction Program has given me a chance to work directly in the community and with its youth. While primarily assigned to the City of Bridgeport I have been able to bring the National Guard into the community.

What I think is unique about my assignment is that I am able to talk to kids and have them listen to me not only because of the uniform am wearing or the helicopter that we land at their school, but because I grew up in the same neighborhoods and went to the same schools that they did.

Negativity yields more negativity so by providing positive programs and maybe just

a positive face in front of a child we are guiding that kid in the right direction.

Prevention doesn't have to be a half hour talk on the dangers of drugs, prevention can also be me having a five minute conversation with a child on his or her day or how much fun we had at the LRC in Stone's Ranch.

Mentoring youth can be worked from different angles; we are just one more angle with a uniform and so are doing our part in the war on drugs which may be connected to the war on terrorism.

My deployment in Iraq and the safe return of the entire unit was possible because of people that cared from my battle buddy Sgt. Staples to the countless kids from so many schools that wrote us letters of support.

Kids are no different and the pressures of growing up in today's peer pressured society is their own little war and I am glad that the National Guard has given me the opportunity to be a face of support and encouragement to Connecticut's youth

If you have any questions about other Drug Free events or Educational & Leadership Programs please call @860-493-2724 and ask for 1st Lt. Christopher Morgan.

Chaplain's

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CHAPLAIN KEVIN P. CAVANAUGH

of stewardship. Briefly stated, "stewardship" is a religious concept that involves using the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of all. I was asked to speak in my capacity as a military chaplain. I'll share with you the message I delivered as well as the reaction of the audience.

I began by quoting a line from President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address: "Here on earth God's work must truly be our own." To my mind that is a perfect definition of stewardship.

We tend to think of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines as combatants, because that is how we hear and see them depicted in newspapers and on television. But you might be surprised to learn that most of those same Soldiers think of themselves not as combatants, but as liberators.

This concept is nothing new for the American serviceman. Inscribed around the base of each American flag at the entrance to the World War II Memorial in Washington are the words: "Americans

Liberators —not Combatants

came to liberate, not to conquer, to restore freedom and to end tyranny."

In his best selling book, "The Greatest Generation," Tom Brokaw lauds the incredible heroism and self sacrifice of those who fought on the front lines and those who supported them during the Second World War. I'll make the case that today's servicemen and women are every bit as dedicated, brave and idealistic.

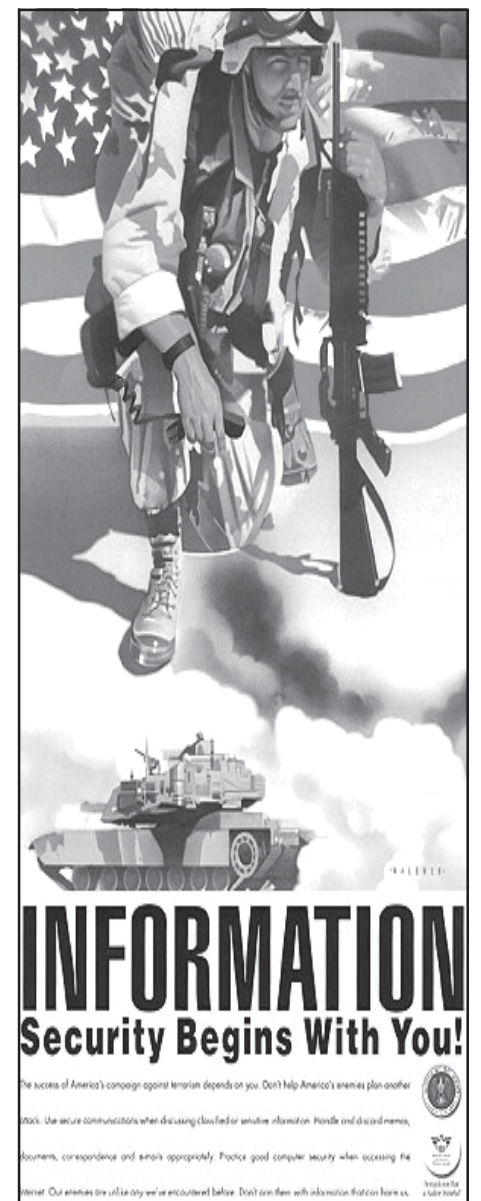
Although many enlist out of a sense of duty or patriotism and deploy expecting the worst, they are frequently surprised to find that they are well received, and even welcomed with open arms. This has a dramatic impact on the way that our servicemen see their role unfold. With youthful idealism, these soldiers approach their assignments in a positive way. They truly feel that they are there to help. They are horrified by the atrocities that have taken place against these people, and are committed to doing everything they can to make their lives better. They see themselves as ambassadors of the United States and its people and they act accordingly. It is incredible how they throw themselves into humanitarian projects.

I showed many pictures of servicemen and women (available at us.army.mil/images): giving food and candy to children; distributing school supplies; building schools and hospitals; inoculating children; and even teaching a tot how to brush her teeth. Although these scenes depicted many

different scenarios, the common denominators were the expressions of joy and gratitude on the faces of the Iraqi people and the obvious pleasure of our Soldiers at being able to help them. If that isn't making God's work truly their own, then I don't know what is.

In my presentation, I described the role of the military chaplain in supporting these wonderful young Americans. We are there to support the religious and spiritual needs of the soldiers and to advise their commanders on matters of faith, morals and morale. We express our stewardship in serving those who serve. In many ways we fill a parental role as counselors and confidants. We help them deal with the loss of a buddy who dies in their arms – as well as the death of a beloved grandmother whose funeral they can't attend.

I thanked the members of the audience for the role they have played in supporting our deployed personnel and gave them suggestions on how they can best continue to help. I wish that you could have been there to see the reception I received – and I know the applause was more for the uniform I wear than for me as an individual. If I can make the assumption that the group to whom I spoke is representative of the American people, I can assure you that all who serve have the wholehearted support of our entire nation.



New law to affect SGLI payments, premiums

DONNA MILES
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for servicemembers with traumatic injuries, explained Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

The increased SGLI coverage will take effect Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit, December 1.

Wurtz said the legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct results of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

The benefit does not apply to servicemembers suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense.

Servicemembers enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Wurtz said.

Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage — \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 - will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.

Because the rates have not changed, servicemembers who retain \$250,000 or less coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Wurtz said, except for the \$1 "traumatic SGLI" premium.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected servicemembers won't be charged retroactive payments, he said. DoD will absorb that cost.

In a new twist introduced through the supplemental legislation, troops with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of members who are not married, notice will be provided to the designated beneficiary when the member

purchases less than the maximum coverage.

The new traumatic SGLI benefit is designed to provide "a quick infusion of cash" for cash-strapped families of troops recuperating from traumatic injuries received in the line of duty, Wurtz said.


Compensation will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and is designed to help families of severely wounded troops leave their homes and jobs to be with their loved one during recovery. "These families incur a lot of expenses, and this is designed to help them financially," Wurtz said.

While VA staff members consult with DoD to write regulations that will put the new SGLI benefits into effect, Wurtz said, "lots and lots of details have to be worked out."

Among outstanding issues is the fact that the expanded SGLI coverage is part of the supplemental legislation package that funds operations only through Sept. 30. That's 30 days after the new SGLI limit takes effect and two months before the traumatic SGLI benefit begins.

Wurtz said VA is confident Congress will resolve this issue before there's any lapse in coverage.

VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program.



INFORMATION



Security Begins With You!

The success of America's campaign against terrorism depends on you. Don't help America's enemies plan another attack. Use secure communications when discussing classified or sensitive information. Preserve and protect e-mail, documents, correspondence and e-mails appropriately. Practice good computer security when accessing the Internet. Our enemies are the allies they've enlisted and befriended. Don't turn them with information that can harm us.

Approved by the NSA/CSS

OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT

Hartford Armory (860) 249 - 3634



JUNE 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Coming Cirque du Soleil "Varekai" Lunch & Show w/ Bus to Show @ 4PM \$105 ea	October 15th 2005	1 830 AM Breakfast 4 - 6 PM CRCOG Cocktail Party	2	3 6 PM Graduation Party Kitty Duncan	4 NG Drill Cp Reli	
5 NG Drill Cp Reli	6 Retirement Party	7 6 PM Quiet Birdmen Dinner	8 Legislature Closes	9 6 PM Vertex Mtg	10	11
12	13	14 6 PM AUSA Flag Day ceremony & Happy Birthday US Army 230th	15 1130 A & A Society of Central Conn Lunch (Ft Guard)	16 5 PM Permanent Commission on Status of Women 530 PM O'Club Bd of Gov Mtg	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21 First Day of Summer	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

O'Club open for lunch daily 1130 - 2 PM
Bar & Lounge open at lunch and 4 PM - Closing



8th ANNUAL NGACT OPEN

DATE:
**Friday
September 2, 2005**

LOCATION:
**Keney Golf Course
Hartford, CT**

TIME:
11 a.m. Shotgun Start

COST:
\$90 per person

FORMAT:
**Four (4) Person Scramble
Gross & Net Divisions**

All proceeds to benefit
the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and
the NGACT Scholarship Fund

Tournament Day Schedule
9 - 10:45 a.m.: Registration, Coffee, Donuts
10:45 - 11 a.m.: Depart for starting holes
11 a.m.: Shotgun Start
5 p.m.: Steak Barbecue, Awards, Raffle

Tournament Includes:
Coffee & Pastry before start
18 holes with cart
lunch
Steak Barbecue
Awards, Prizes & Raffle
\$10,000 Hole in One Contest
Men's & Ladies' Closest to the Pin
Contest
Men's & Ladies' Long Drive Contest
50/50 Contest
Team Photos
Hole Sponsorships Available

For questions or more information contact:

Mike Falk: (860) 524-4852
Rich Maziarz: (860) 798-1367
Jim Howard: (860) 209-2237

Return No Later Than Aug. 16, 2005 to: NGACT Open, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
(Make Checks payable to NGACT)

Name	Address & Phone Number	9-Hole Avg. Score
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *Understanding Report of Survey*

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

Most Soldiers, especially those who lost, damaged or destroyed military property are familiar with the term "Report of Survey." With the revision of Army Regulation 735-5, "Policies and Procedures for Property Accountability," effective March 28, 2005, a "Report of Survey" is now officially a "Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss."

Although the regulation is already effective, IAW paragraph 13-3, military authorities must "process the financial liability investigation of property loss in accordance with the regulation in effect at the time the loss, damage or destruction (LDD) occurred. For Soldiers familiar with processing a Report of Survey, the revised version of 735-5 should be well received, as it addressed many problems encountered under the older versions of the regulation. Significant changes include the following.

- o Replaces DA Form 4697 with DD Form 200.
- o Replaces the survey officer with the financial liability officer.
- o Adds the use of electronic/digital signature on investigations of property loss.
- o Adds policy to authorize the Adjutant General to appoint approving authorities.
- o Establishes policy for appointment of an investigating officer.
- o Provides a new table for the protocol for military and civilian rank comparison for the appointment of investigating officers.
- o Sets policy for the approval authority to assess a lesser amount of financial liability than the actual amount of the loss.
- o Directs garnishing wages when Army members and civilian employees held financially liable retire prior to a decision being made on the assessment of financial liability.
- o Allows the exchange of damaged organizational clothing and individual equipment when damage occurred while being used conducting official Government business.
- o Adds directions for adjusting for losses of hand tools.
- o Sets policy for processing an investigation of loss for personal clothing and organizational clothing and individual equipment issued to U.S. Army Reserve, Army National Guard, or active duty soldiers who have stopped participating in training sessions or who are in absence without leave status.
- o Permits the approving authority to assess financial liability in an amount less than the cost of repair for damaged vehicle involve in an accident in lieu of relieving all concerned of financial liability.
- o Provides guidance when financial liability is assessed against an individual of another military Service.



NGACT: Working for you



The deadline for the NGACT Scholarship is fast approaching - June 30. If you are interested, contact Juanita Hunt at junita.hunt@ctbrad.ang.af.mil or Debbi Newton at debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil for the information sheets and applications.

We are proud to announce that our Website is once again up and running! While we still have much construction going on with the site, we are very excited to be back on-line. Thanks for this new site go out to our treasurer, Capt. Dave Fecso, and our webmaster, Lt. Bryon Turner, both of the 103rd Fighter Wing. Bryon is responsible for the design of the site.

Most of the NGACT-specific information is still being loaded, but one of the main features of the site is a link to Bradley Air Base BRAC information.

The Website is located at www.ngact.org. Take a look and let us know what you think.

Also, we'd like to welcome Mr. Jim Lozinski as our new Executive Director. Jim will be coming on board shortly and will be handling all of our administrative tasks. The position of ED is a volunteer position and we certainly are appreciative that Jim is willing to take it on. Most of you already know Jim as it was only recently that he retired from the Connecticut Army National Guard.

By the time you read this, the Connecticut General Assembly will have adjourned its 2005 session (June 9). We have had an extremely successful season there this year, although we still have a great deal of work to do. In the next issue of the Guardian we will take a look at what bills we were successful in getting passed and what they mean to you.

Briefly, we fully expect the Indemnification, Worker's Comp and Depleted Uranium bills to pass and be signed into law by the governor. We are keeping a close eye on the budget bill as the original version presented by the governor included monthly bonuses for deployed Soldiers and Airmen and a 50 percent exemption of military retiree pay from the state income tax. We'll let you know what happens with these and several other bills still up for consideration.

Equally important is legislation at the federal level. We have been working closely with our Congressional delegation, both in Washington and in their local offices. Looks like good things could happen there this year, too.

Finally, our annual golf tournament has been scheduled for Friday, Sept. 2 at Keney Park in Hartford. Make plans to join us for our annual day of fun and frivolity.



RONALD E. LEE, 1ST SGT. (RET.) USAR
CT-ESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN

While federal law requires employers to give eligible workers deployed with the National Guard or Reserves comparable jobs with comparable pay on their return, there are many companies that go above and beyond the call.

The Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve partnered with The Business Council of Fairfield County (SACIA) to recognize such Fairfield County-based companies at a breakfast ceremony at the Dolce Norwalk Center. The national and state committees' actions include helping companies write human resource policies about Soldiers and mediating disputes between workers and their employers.

National Guard members and Reservists—including those who haven't been deployed—nominate their bosses and companies for recognition through the ESGR Patriot Award program. Examples of going "above and beyond" include companies that make up the difference between what they normally pay a worker and what the Guard or Reserves pay, and those that extend benefits beyond what is legally required. Another example is companies that stay in touch with employees and/or their families while they are deployed, so they don't have to worry about their job when they get back. Since the

ESGR hosts awards presentations for supportive employers

Persian Gulf War, and because of the decline in the number of active-duty troops, Guard and Reserve service members are more in demand than ever.

"We were very gratified" to get the award, said Vince Santilli, a first vice president and growth manager for Fairfield County at People's Bank. "In some cases, we had to do some juggling" to make up for the 13 employees who have been on military leave the past two years, he said. "But," he added, "doing so supports the employee and the country."

About 25 percent of the workers at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford have military experience, spokesman Ed Steadham said. The company was an award recipient and has signed a Statement of Support. Sikorsky has a plaque with the names of the 41 workers who have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. When they are deployed, the company makes up the difference in pay, Steadham said.

That's also the policy at Stew Leonard's,

spokeswoman Jill Greenwood said of the company's reserve duty compensation policy. While she said she believes the Norwalk-based grocery chain doesn't have any workers currently deployed, employee John Meyer nominated his boss, Joe Vota, for his support while Meyer was activated. Vota is the company's director of security.

Other companies recognized included Peppermill Restaurant in Westport, Isqom Technologies Inc. in Newtown, General Electric—both corporate and consumer finance—Westport Fire Department, Stamford Police Department, SBC in Stratford and COMMONFUND in Wilton.

ESGR strongly urges all National Guard and Reservists to nomination their employers for a Patriot Award. You can do so on-line by going to www.esgr.org and click on the military members quick link then go to Reward your Employer and fill out the form. We suggest that you review the criteria and check with your Personnel Dept. or Supervisor to accurately answer the questions before submitting the nomination.

Also, include specific comments as appropriate as these nominations will be reviewed later to make higher level awards up to and including the Freedom Award that is presented annually by the President of the United States in Washington, D.C. Even if you are an outstanding employee, if you take a moment to recognize your employer's support it will go a long way in keeping a positive relationship.



Inside OCS

Knowledge of leadership is power to lead

SOC JOHN PHELAN
OCS CLASS 50

Since our first days of being an Officer Candidate in Class 50, the TAC staff has stressed some key points that they believe will aid us in not only successfully graduating the OCS program, but also in being successful leaders with our units.

We must always follow orders and be confident in our decisions. Whether they are right or wrong, our troops will depend on us to never show doubt in the face of adversity. Always make a decision. Never hesitate, never show weakness, and never be indecisive. Any decision is better than no decision. Don't fear making mistakes. All great leaders have failed before in their careers. It is how you react to failure that eventually dictates what type of leader you really are or will become.

One of the other points that the TAC staff has stressed is that we must educate ourselves and strive to become masters of this science of military leadership. They have recommended time and time again to read of past great leaders and their methods and styles of leadership, to study past conflicts and their engagements, and, most importantly, question the leadership and

their decisions. Should Pickett have led his men across that open field? Should Task Force Ranger have gone out in broad daylight on that fateful mission in Mogadishu when their technological advantage allowed them to operate with impunity at night? Should we have gone into Baghdad during the first Gulf War and removed Saddam Hussein then? These types of questions, and the decisions that the leadership made during those decisive points in American military history, will prove to be valuable teaching tools for the next generation of leaders and future generations to come.

One of the books that I have recently read in hopes of learning valuable lessons in leadership styles and methods was, "This Man's Army: A Soldier's Story from the Front Lines of the War on Terrorism," written by Capt. Andrew Exum. Exum was an Infantry officer who led and fought with the 10th Mountain division in Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan before moving on to lead the elite Army Rangers. What he stated at the end of the book should be noted:

"I think about my men every day, wondering how they are doing, wondering if they are safe, praying they will make it back...my men will always be a part of me. They are as much

a part of my family as the people in East Tennessee who raised me. In a sense, my men and I came of age together, and for as long as I live they can count on me to be there for them whenever they call. I was their leader once, and now I lead others. But they know they will forever be my responsibility. People sometimes ask me what I am most proud of in my military career, and I tell them that the thing I cherish the most is the trust I was given to lead those men into combat and bring them home. The President and country and Army had put their faith in me, but those men trusted me with their lives.

On a cold March morning in 2002, I walked into the Shah-e-Kot Valley. Thirty-three men walked beside me. And no matter where I go, they will always be with me.

We are all Soldiers. But, ultimately, we are all human beings. As officers we will be entrusted by our nation to lead someone's loved one into combat. This is the ultimate responsibility. One of the ways, as leaders, that we can improve our chances of being successful on the battlefield is to study the leaders who have brought our brothers-in-arms home before.

169th Regiment Leadership Upcoming Classes TY-05 JUN-SEP 2005

GS BN	
BTOC/RHC:	25-26 JUN, 23-24 JUL, 20-21 AUG
PRE-PLDC:	11-12 JUN.
EMTB REF:	12-14 AUG
SGI:	10-11 & 24-25 SEP.
TAITC #1:	4 JUN.
TAITC #2:	25-26 JUN, 16-17 JUL, 6 AUG
TAITC #3 (TMC):	15-17 JUL, 30-31 JUL.
FITNESS LDR:	17-18 SEP.
H&WP #1:	25-26 JUN, 23-24 JUL, 20-21 AUG
H&WP #2:	24-25 SEP.
QRF:	19-21 AUG

OCS BN & CO	
OCS PHASE 0:	25-26 JUN
OCS PHASE 1:	16-30 JUL.
OCS PHASE 2:	4 JUN, 30 JUL, 20-21 AUG, 24-25 SEP.
OCS PHASE 3:	11-25 JUN.


There are still openings in the Emergency Medical Technician Refresher (EMTB REF) course, Small Group Instructors (SGI) Course and The Army Instructor Training Course (TAITC)

WANTED: Instructors - - - The Army Instructor Training Course (TAITC) has numerous openings in both classes 2 and 3. The Leadership Regiment is in the process of adding courses and is looking for additional instructors - especially Nationally Registered Medics or EMTs who would like to assist with CLC and EMT Training.

Visit the
Connecticut
Guardian
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

For Bradley Airbase
BRAC Information,
visit the NGA CT
Website at
www.NGACT.org
or for full BRAC
Information, visit
www.brac.gov

**Do you have what it takes
to take your career to the next level?**




**1st Battalion (OCS), 169th Regiment
(LDR)
Officer Candidate School
Information Briefs:**

DATES
22 JAN 05
26 FEB 05
19 MAR 05
16 APR 05
21 MAY 05
25 JUN 05

*Bring a Friend, Spouse or Significant Other.
Information Brief will be in Building 402, Leadership Hall,
beginning at 1000 hours.*

For more information contact
1LT Shaun O'Dea
(860) 691-4216
shaun.odea@ct.ngb.army.mil



Health & Fitness



Medical Notes



Public health requirement for pregnant members in the Connecticut Air National Guard

STAFF SGT. JENNIFER E. DERISE
103RD FW PUBLIC HEALTH TECH.

Have you ever wondered what kind of hazards there are to expectant moms and their unborn babies? While there are numerous possible hazards associated with the job you do in the Air Force, it can be overwhelming to try and sort those things out on your own. That's why we at the 103rd Public Health Office are here to help!

The main purpose of any Fetal Protection/Reproductive Health Program is to prevent injury or illness to the expecting mother and the fetus due to occupational exposure. We also determine if there are any possible household hazards and any hobbies that

may be hazardous. Public Health also provides education on how to protect expectant moms and their babies.

It's crucial that confirmed pregnant members come in to see us as soon as possible. Many women may not know they are pregnant until they are well within the first trimester. The first trimester is considered to be a critical time frame as most of the body systems are developing at this time.

The Connecticut Air National Guard Public Health Team is considered to be only one part of the total process. Our Admin section accomplishes a review of medical standards, a military health provider will accomplish an evaluation and confirmation of pregnancy and

a civilian health care provider evaluation is also required. Expectant moms should come to see us in Public Health after they've gone through our Medical Admin section first.

Our job here at the 103rd Public Health Office is to provide guidance and education for all our members. So, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 860-292-2792. We look forward to seeing you!

(Pregnant Army Guard Soldiers should contact their medical support personnel for information on programs available to them.)

Fit for Life: Air Force marathon set for Sept. 17

STEVE VANWERT
AIR FORCE SERVICES AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Force Services officials will hold the ninth annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, on Sept. 17. The marathon will also include a half-marathon, wheelchair race, a four-person relay and a 5k race.

The deadline for registration is Sept. 2. The race is open to the public.

The course is a certified 26.2-mile run that starts and ends at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and traverses historical places on Wright-Patterson, including the Air Force Institute of Technology, Air Force Materiel Command headquarters, the Wright-Patterson flightline and the Wright Brothers Memorial Monument.

Bill Rogers, a four-time winner of the

Boston and New York City marathons and a member of the 1976 U.S. Olympic marathon team, along with Alberto Salazar, who set six U.S. records, a world record and won three consecutive New York marathons, will speak at a dinner at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force on Sept. 16 and participate in the races.

Registration fees are: marathon (individual), \$45; wheelchair, \$45; relay team, \$160 per team; half marathon, \$30 and the 5k, \$15. Tickets for the dinner can be paid for on the registration entry form and are \$12 per adult, \$6 per child ages 6 to 12, and free for children age 5 or younger.

Permissive temporary duty is authorized for this event.

The Air Force Marathon has been flying high for eight years, and Air Force Services

Agency officials recently approved it as an official Air Force event.

The marathon began in 1997 as Wright Patterson's tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Air Force.

A record 3,500 people participated last year, while about 7,000 others volunteered or were spectators.

"Becoming the official Air Force Marathon brings credibility to it," said M. Scott Nunnally, of the Air Force Services Agency.

The Air Force Marathon is already a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon.

For more information, people can visit the Air Force Marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil> or call (937) 257-4350 or (800) 467-1823.

DOD study ongoing to investigate Airmen's health

An ongoing Department of Defense health study will ultimately examine health surveys submitted by servicemembers throughout 20 years.

The joint-service Millennium Cohort Study will evaluate the health risks of military deployments, occupations and general military service, said Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Margaret Ryan, director of the DOD Center for Deployment Health Research in San Diego.

Enrollment for the study began in 2001, and close to 100,000 servicemembers have enrolled since then, including active-duty and reserve components. Of those, more than 20,000 participants are Airmen.

Participants are selected and asked to complete a survey every three years through 2022. To make participation as effortless as possible, respondents have the option of completing either online surveys or paper surveys that arrive in the mail.

Although enrollment has been hampered by deployments supporting operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, it is increasingly important for servicemembers to respond to study invitations during these periods, DOD health officials said.

Results have already led to a better understanding of the general health of servicemembers, while future studies will focus on specific disease outcomes and multisymptom illnesses, officials said.

INFORMATION

Security Begins With You!

The success of America's campaign against terrorism depends on you. Don't let America's enemies plan another attack. Use secure communications when discussing classified or sensitive information. Handle sensitive documents, correspondence and e-mails appropriately. Practice good computer security when accessing the Internet. Our enemies are using any weaknesses they find. Don't let them win with information. Protect ours.

Critical Issues Round Table
www.criticalissuesroundtable.org

"Support Our Troops": Giving Meaning to the Words

It has become increasingly popular in recent years, especially since the events of 9/11, for Americans to say that they "support our troops." This is evidenced by countless bumper stickers, yellow ribbons and other visible icons. But what does it really mean to "support our troops"? How can the average American give real meaning to those three simple words? One way to answer this question might be to review the Code of Conduct to which our troops subscribe, and then consider what we owe them in return. We offer below the wording of the military Code of Conduct, and then a counterpart "Code of Support" to which those who want to support our troops may, in turn, subscribe:

Code of Conduct	Code of Support
I - I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.	I - I am an American. I know that the men and women in our Armed Forces are prepared to give their lives to defend my country, my way of life and the blessings of liberty throughout the world. I am committed to their perpetual recognition, appreciation and support.
II - I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.	II - As they have sworn to defend me and protect our country, so will I pledge to support them in every way that I can, and to avoid any action that would increase their risk. I will further do my part to ensure that they are never sent into harm's way without all of the necessary resources to protect them and to fulfill their mission.
III - If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.	III - If they become prisoners of war, are missing in action, are wounded, or lose their lives, I will keep faith with them and their loved ones. I will not rest until we find them, heal them, and return them to their comrades, their loved ones and their nation.
IV - If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me, and will back them up in every way.	IV - For our military veterans, I pledge unfailing recognition and appreciation for their contributions to our national defense and our welfare. I will not forget my nation's responsibility to provide for their continued well-being, and meaningful compensation for their sacrifice.
V - When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give only name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.	V - I understand that our service men and women do not make national policy, but are sworn to obey their civilian leadership and defend the constitution. I will respect their faithful service to the nation and always give them my unqualified support.
VI - I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.	VI - I will never forget that our service men and women are fighting for my freedom and are dedicated to the principles which make our country free. I will share the responsibility for preserving that freedom with those who proudly wear the uniform of the United States of America.

Individuals and organizations who wish to indicate their endorsement of the Code of Support may do so at www.codeofsupport.org

HANDYPERSON

HOTLINE

CALL
(860) 209-0770
TODAY

The Green Guard

Turn your spoils into soils! Composting is HOT!

MELISSA TONI
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

That was meant literally. Composting is hot; microorganisms create a great deal of heat while turning your landscape and food spoils into nutrient-rich and healthy soil with very minimal effort from you. This article will explain the benefits of household composting, how to compost, and what you can put into the pile.

Why compost? Benefit Number 1: You can make your own organic enriched soil that will help your vegetables and flowers grow in your home gardens, for free! Benefit Number 2: You can conserve landfill space and reduce air emissions from incinerators by reducing the volume of garbage that you throw out. Surprisingly, as much as 25% of your garbage can be composted.

Compost is a fantastic mulch and soil enhancement, improving soil structure, texture, aeration, and the soil's water-holding capacity. Adding the rich, dark material produced by composting to your soil stimulates healthy root development in plants and is a great substitute for expensive

fertilizers.

How do I start? Composting is easy. First, select a site for the pile. An area that gets both some sun and some shade is best for composting. The location should be convenient for adding to and turning the pile. It is recommended that the pile be turned with a pitchfork or shovel every few weeks, helping to keep the material aerated and increasing production of decomposition bacteria.

Next, determine the method. A piled-up heap is the cheapest alternative and is perfectly acceptable, unless your yard is prone to critter usage. Deer have been known to eat an entire pile overnight. Building a bin has a material cost, but containment keeps out pests and keeps in moisture and heat. A bin can be built using wooden stakes and chicken wire, old pallets, or an old garbage can with holes drilled through the bottom. If building a bin, make sure that it's easy to turn over the pile. A purchased bin is the most expensive alternative, ranging in price from about \$50 to \$300, but may be the easiest alternative.

Some bins are made to roll on the ground for easy turning and some have handles to turn the material.

Next, build and maintain the pile. Place wood chips or twigs in the bottom first to allow for aeration. Then place material in layers 2-6 inches thick, alternating between "greens" (grass, food scraps) and "browns" (leaves). The pile should be watered and mixed after 2 layers. Make sure the pile is kept moist, but not soggy, and fluff the pile every few weeks.

In about one month, a rich, dark soil will start to form and can be added to flower or vegetable gardens, pots, window boxes, or lawns.

What can I put into my compost pile? Pretty much anything from your lawn and kitchen can go into a compost pile with a few limitations. Great for composting: leaves, grass, garden debris, tree prunings, fruit and vegetable scraps, egg and peanut shells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, and torn-up newspapers. Do not compost: meat, fat, bones, cheese, fish, vegetable oils, and garden plants that have been diseased.

Can I buy compost instead of making it? Yes! Connecticut is very unique. According



to State regulation, leaves must get recycled and most towns turn them into compost. There are over 100 compost facilities in CT and most are municipally owned. For residents of most towns, you can bring your leaves and brush to the town compost center and take finished compost home with you, usually for free. You can check www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/compost/listcities.htm for a complete list of composting towns and their contact numbers.

There is a New Face at HRO



To schedule an appointment for an ID Card or to update your DEERS information contact:

Senior Airman Amanda Douville at
860-878-6725 or email her at
Amanda.douville@ct.ngb.army.mil

The *Connecticut Guardian* will be taking a look back at the Guard's involvement in the Floods of 55 in August, the 50th anniversary of Mother Nature's devastation.

If you were in the Guard and involved in the clean-up, we'd like to hear from you.

If you are in the Guard now, and have memories of the devastation, we'd like to hear from you. We're also looking for any old photos you may have.

Please contact Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton at (860) 548-3251 or via email: debbi.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil



58th Annual Picnic & Reunion (Rain or Shine) 192d Field Artillery Battalion Association

Invitation to ALL former member 192d FA Bn.
& ALL current members of 192d CM Bn.

To include: HHD 192 Cm Bn.; 103rd Chemical Co.; 134th Military Police Co.; 143rd Military Police Co.; 223rd Law & Order Detachment & Detachment 3 -27th Infantry Brigade.

Date: Sunday, July 10th, 2005

Place: Anthony's Lake Club, West Kenosia Ave., Danbury, Ct. 06810

Cost: \$32.00 (includes all day buffet- unlimited beverages)

Menu:

Breakfast: Hot coffee & Danish for early arrivals.

Luncheon: Hot dogs, hamburgers, liver/bacon & onions, and steamed clams & broth served from 10:00 A.M. 'til 12:00 noon.

Dinner: Steak sandwiches, meatballs, zittis, chicken, potatoes, salad, corn and watermelon.

Dues: \$5.00 for 2005-2006 membership (1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006)

! Advance dues and reservations payments are required for the 2005 reunion; please send in your annual dues and reservation check ASAP!

Send Reply to: Thomas Bria, 78 Sheephill Road Riverside, Ct 06878
Questions? Email: Jack.Duncan@us.army.mil

Directions: (From Hartford East) Take Rt 84 west. Get off at Exit 4. Turn right onto Rt. 6. Turn left at the 5th red light (Kenosia Avenue); go over small bridge; Take quick 1st right (West Kenosia Ave) go to end of the street.

Retirees' Voice

Prescription drug benefits, TRICARE updated

Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) JOHN BEDNARZ

Beginning in July of this year the Department of Defense (DOD) will eliminate from their "formulary" the drugs Nexium (the purple pill for heartburn), Teveten, and Teveten HCT (used for treating high blood pressure). It is the early stages of a program that discourages the use of expensive medications that have been found to provide no medical advantage over competing drugs, yet are priced significantly higher.

It is the first time DOD has decided to drop a licensed medication for financial reasons, and is an indication of more difficult choices they will need to make to rein in the \$5 billion-a-year budget that has increased by 500 percent in the past four years.

Pharmaceutical analysts say paying \$4.00

a pill for Nexium, when you can get over the counter Prilosec for 67 cents a pill is questionable. By switching patients from Nexium to one of four cheaper medications for heartburn and ulcers, the Pentagon can save many tens of million dollars a year.

For decades, private employers, insurers and some State Medicaid programs have refused to pay for some pricey medications by creating a drug list or formulary. The DOD up to now has provided unlimited access to any licensed medication, but now is using its formulary to curtail costs.

As of July 17, 2005 four other heartburn drugs will be offered. Zegerid, Protonix, Aciphex and Prevacid, for \$9.00 co-pay per prescription. Patients, who find that the other drugs fail to bring relief and only Nexium works, can, with their doctors backing, request an exemption, or they can

pay the Pentagon's negotiated price of \$22.00, still a bargain compared with the retail price of more than \$120.00.

Military Treatment Facilities (MTF's) which carried these medications on their local formularies will no longer carry them but can provide them if an MTF provider writes the prescription and medical necessity is established for these products. If you already have a medical necessity determination, it will become invalid on July 17, and a new determination must be made.

On another note, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the DOD have recently identified 38,974 TRICARE-for-Life eligible beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A, but were not directly notified of their opportunity to enroll in Medicare Part B without incurring the penalty fees for enrolling late.

If you are a military retiree who is Medicare Part B eligible (but have not enrolled) and you have not heard from the Social Security Administration, please stop by your local Social Security office (with your Military ID) or call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at www.ssa.gov/ and they can provide you with the

information you need to determine your best options.

It appears that the Navy Audiology Departments at Groton, Newport and Portsmouth, as a cost cutting measure, will soon no longer be offering 'The Retiree at Cost Hearing Aid Program' to retirees over 65 years old. The program was able to provide hearing aids at cost. Also assisted listening devices for telephones, televisions, doorbell and alarm clocks. I have taken advantage of this program and I don't know were I will go if the program were no longer offered to us 'older retirees.' I'll keep you posted.

Call the
Handyperson Hotline
today to volunteer
your skills
(860) 209-0770

2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh



Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the full Technician vacancy announcements, go to www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies			
Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Aircraft Mechanic (12 Vacancies)	AASF	WG-12	June 2, 2005
Computer Assistant (Indef)	AVCRAD	GS-09	June 3, 2005
Tools and Parts Attendant	AASF	WG-06	June 9, 2005
Electronics Mechanic (Indef)	AVCRAD	WG-10	June 9, 2005
Flight Operations Specialist	AVCRAD	GS-08	June 9, 2005
Electronics Mechanic	CSMS	WG-11	June 10, 2005
Production Controller	CSMS	GS-06	June 14, 2005
Quality Assurance Spec. (2 Positions)	AASF	GS-09	June 14, 2005
Management Analyst (Temp Promo/Tech)	DOIM	GS-09	June 16, 2005
Secretary	AASF	GS-05	June 20, 2005
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer (Indef)	UTES	WG-08	June 22, 2005
Civil Engineering Technician (Indef)	CFMO	GS-09	June 23, 2005
Aircraft Mechanic (Indef) (4 Positions)	AVCRAD	WG-10/08/05	June 24, 2005

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies			
Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Training Technician	103rd FW	GS-07	June 9, 2005
Sheet Metal Mechanic (Aircraft)	103rd FW	WG-10	June 27, 2005
Electronics Mechanic (Indef)	103rd ACS	WG-11	June 27, 2005

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, go the www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies			
Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	Recruiting CMD	SFC/E-7	Open AGR Nationwide
Supply Sergeant	712th Maint. HEM	E-4 to E-6	Open AGR Nationwide
Training Officer	1st Bn. *5th Trp Cmd	O-1 to O-3	Open AGR Statewide
Personnel Services NCO	JFHQ-CTAGR Tour	E-5 to E-7	Open AGR Nationwide
Operations NCO	B Co, 242nd ENGR Bn (C)	E-5 to E-7	Open AGR Nationwide
Unit Supply Sgt.	Co B, 1/102nd INF	E-4 to E-6	Open AGR Nationwide

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies			
Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Transportation Assistant	103rd FW	E-1 to E-5	Open AGR Nationwide
Electronics Mechanic Sprvrs	103rd ACS	E-7 to E-8	On Board AGR Only
Training Technician	103rd FW	E-4 to E-7	On Board AGR Only

NOTE: Other positions with outdated closing dates are also listed on the website. Some of these positions are currently under consideration, and others may have their application dates extended. Keep checking the website and if you have any questions concerning outdated postings, call HRO at (860) 878-6739 or (860) 878-6729.

Temporary Technician Employment Opportunities

The Human Resource Office has Temporary Technician employment opportunities available throughout the State. We have a need for a variety of military specialties including Family Support Specialists, Administrative Support Personnel, Aircraft Mechanics, Finance Specialists, Heavy Equipment Mechanics and Operators, etc.

If you are a member of the Connecticut National Guard and are interested in one of these employment opportunities, please call the HRO Staffing Specialist at (860) 878-6739 or just submit an OF-612 and OF-306 directly to the HRO.

If sending your application directly please ensure you sign and date both forms, document all your civilian and military experience, list your daytime phone number and identify the type of Temporary Technician position you would be interested in filling.

Coming Events

- June
- June 14
- Flag Day
- Army Birthday
- June 17
- Send-Off Ceremony for G/126th AVN
- AASF, 0900 Hrs.
- June 18
- Laugh With Dan
- Fundraiser for CTNG Youth Group
- June 19
- Father's Day
- June 26
- 118th Medical Company Freedom Salute
- New Britain Armory, 1400 Hrs.

- July
- July 4
- Fourth of July
- July 10
- 192nd FA Bn. Association
- Reunion & Picnic

- August
- August 17
- Retirees Picnic
- Camp Rell
- August 21 - 24
- EANGUS National Conference

- September
- September 2
- NGACT Golf Tournament

In future issues

- Vietnam Veterans Welcomed Home
- Downed Pilot Meets with his
- National Guard Rescuers
- BRAC Update
- 50 Year Anniversary of the Floods of '55

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.

Area students meet local Soldiers, learn about units missions

STAFF SGT. CAROLYN A. ASELTON
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCOIC

High school juniors and seniors from six area schools visited an open house and recruiting event hosted by the 250th Engineer Company at the West Thompson Lake April 29.

Nearly 100 young adults spent the day touring a variety of Connecticut Army National Guard equipment during the day designed to showcase new bridge erection boats, as well as spark an interest in the Guard.

“We wanted to make it a very interactive event,” said Sgt . 1st Class Robert Fontenault, recruiter. “We feel that if they see the equipment working it’s much more interesting, much more appealing than a static display.”

To start, helicopters flew over, then landed, HUMVEES cruised across the grass and boats docked near the shore.

From there, the students broke into six elements and were given a leader, who was a Guard member. They made their way to various stations which offered hands-on activities or a speaker.

“Today we looked at a lot of different equipment for the National Guard. It was exciting and I liked it a lot,” said Robert St. Jean, one of the students from Killingly High School.

One element leader, Officer Candidate Bill Gruner, recruiter, quickly motivated his group by giving them a nickname and calling out to them.

“Who’s not having fun?” he asked.

After his students took a group photo standing in front of a Chinook helicopter, Gruner joined them in an informal circle, answered questions and offered guidance.

Besides the Chinook, the students also got to check out a wrecker that gets stuck vehicles out of the mud. Spc. Brandon M. Hilton and Pfc. Mark Morin, both mechanics, 250th Engineer Company, answered questions that ranged from motor detail to basic training from the students.

The 250th Engineer Company hosted the event and was supported by its higher headquarters, the 192nd Engineer Battalion, the 247th Engineer Detachment, the 248th Engineer Company, the 256th and 246th Firefighting Detachments, the 134th Military Police Company, the 1109th AVCRAD and G Company, 104th Aviation.



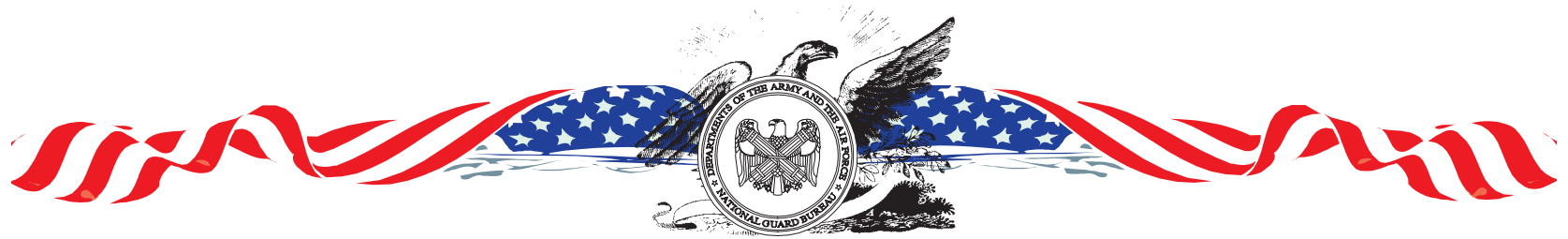
Area high school students board the Connecticut National Guard's new bridge erection boats during an open house and recruiting event hosted by the 250th Engineer Company at the West Thompson Lake April 29. The boat ride allowed the students to see some of the boats' capabilities and talk with unit members. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton, 103rd FW Public Affairs NCO)



Sporting a new T-shirt, an area high school student watches a demonstration during an open house and recruiting event hosted by the 250th Engineer Company at the West Thompson Lake April 29. The open house showcased some of the Connecticut National Guard's equipment. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton, 103rd FW Public Affairs NCO)

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Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 6 NO. 6

HARTFORD, CT

JUNE 2005

The Flame of Hope: Teen speaks of patriotism on Memorial Day

BRIAN BOLDOC

(Editor's Note: Brian Bolduc is the son of Norman Bolduc, an associate member of the First Company Governor's Horse Guard and a junior at East Catholic High School. This is the text of a speech he gave during Memorial Day ceremonies in Manchester.)

History teaches us that all nations yearn to be great. Most countries, however, never realize this dream. No matter how far they extend their borders, no matter how high they build their cities, no matter how many riches they amass, history dumps these countries into the dustheap of mediocrity. Only a chosen few become great countries, noble countries, and proud countries.

Belittled by the ambitions of imperialism, flouted by the pretensions of totalitarianism, and loathed by the presumptions of communism, the United States of America stands as a pillar of greatness, a position that its enemies never obtained. Its greatness comes not from its military might, nor its economic affluence, nor its natural resources, but from its people. Ordinary men and women, who work everyday to feed their families, raise their children, and better their communities, furnish this country with its greatness. For all of their labor, they ask not for a statue or a monument, but for the right to live their lives as they please.

Nevertheless, this freedom engenders

jealousy in people who lack such good fortune. In return, the nations of slavery attack the nation of freedom, wishing to extinguish the flame of hope that burns inside every free person. Needless to say, they never succeed because of the citizens who fight for their country. These Soldiers answer a call to arms seldom heard by human ears. It is a call resounding not with glory but with sacrifice. They fight so that others can have peace. They conquer so that others can be free. They die so that others can live. On this day of remembrance, we recognize the men and women who died in battle, fighting to secure the blessings of liberty for their posterity. Without a doubt, they are the martyrs of freedom. At the same time, we extend our gratitude to those Soldiers who thankfully returned home.

Wrought with numerous struggles, the road to independence was a strenuous path. At Valley Forge, our forefathers wallowed in the biting cold but kept their countrymen warm with the ideals of the revolution. At Fort McHenry, an outnumbered but not outmanned American army defeated the invincible British Empire once again. At the Alamo, a cluster of pathetic combatants lost an inconsequential battle but won a crucial war. With undying zeal, these men protected a nascent America from foreign foes so that the fledgling republic could mature undisturbed.

Of course, the Ship of State sailed into troubled waters. During the darkest days of

the Civil War, the flame of hope burned its brightest inside every American. Even the carnage of Antietam and Gettysburg did not deter the men and women who served on the battlefield from accomplishing their task. That task was to defend liberty, liberty for all mankind. Not even the weight of racism could break the bond of Union among the states. Still, this struggle was only a prelude to the wars that were to come.

The taste of freedom has a unique flavor to it. Some people savor its zest of autonomy and free will, while others repudiate its tang of responsibility and self-control. When the greatest armed conflict ever known to mankind first ignited, the prospect of democracy seemed dim. Despots threatened to smite democracy off the face of the earth. Unwavering in their strength, the men and women of America stood up to the dictators. In the jungles of Southeast Asia, on the beaches of North Africa, and in the cities of Europe, American soldiers pushed back the tide of tyranny during the two World Wars. Truly, these Americans relished the flavor of freedom and allowed people across the globe to taste it for the first time.

Since that war, America has led the world in its pursuit of freedom for all people. Campaigns against communism in Korea and Vietnam did not always prove fruitful but were still honorable. In the end, America toppled the Soviet Union and its misguided philosophy of communism. At the close of the twentieth century, America defended

weaker nations such as Kuwait from their intimidators. Now, America grapples with the menace of terrorism and anarchy. In spite of this, America shall triumph for her cause is just.

The secret to the success of the American experiment lies with its people. Everyday, men and women leave the safety of their own homes in order to join the armed forces. Although the reason for their enthusiasm may seem perplexing to some, these Soldiers carry no doubts in their hearts. The men and women who have served in the armed forces understand a universal truth that history routinely demonstrates for us. This truth is simply that freedom is not an entitlement. Even though God gives every person the right to be free, every person must bear the responsibility of defending this essential right. Vice corrupts the hearts of men and compels them to assert superiority over their neighbors. Thus, the sins of envy, pride, and gluttony constantly threaten to rob the people of their freedom. As the brave men and women of the armed forces have shown, however, people must never lose hope. They must keep that flame of hope alive in their hearts until the end of time. By doing so, they can climb any mountain, overcome any obstacle, and conquer any foe. Hope kept our ancestors believing in freedom and the only thing that will keep us believing in freedom is hope.

History teaches us that many nations yearn to be perfect. Human nature will dictate, however, that this is an unreality. No matter how hard we try, America will never reach perfection. Because of the deeds of the men and women of the armed forces, however, America has reached greatness. On this Memorial Day, let us remember the sacrifices of our ancestors and hope that we can emulate them. We do not set aside this day for the deceased, but for the living. Nothing we do can fully esteem the significance of their service, but what they have already done has given our lives more purpose, more meaning, and most importantly, more hope. May God continue to shed His Blessings upon the United States of America for the men and women of the armed forces still fighting to defend freedom.



Postal employees support troops

There were few excuses for not calling home this Mother's Day. Employees and customers of the Hartford Post Office donated 21,900 minutes in calling cards for Soldiers and Airmen deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Pictured from left to right) OC Claude Hibbert and Michelle McCarty from Family Program, Chu Falling Star, Post Master of the Hartford Post Office, and Interim Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Thad Martin. (Photo by OC Jesse J. Stanley, 65th PCH)



CATHERINE GALASSO

Dads can learn from emperor penguins

Ne v e r underestimate the importance of a good father.

After laying her single egg, the female emperor penguin leaves her nest to feed. It is then that the male emperor penguin incubates the egg by himself.

The male cradles the small egg between the top of his feet and his stomach for two long months.

Papa penguin sits on the icy cold ground with temperatures as frigid as 40 degrees below zero, warming and protecting that precious egg.

During that entire time, the male emperor does not eat. By the time the baby egg hatches, the father has lost a third of its body weight. When the female returns to care for the baby, the male heads to the water for food and rest.

What an amazing example that God has given us in nature of an unselfish and totally dedicated father.

So let us give tribute, dear Soldiers, to loving, caring and faithful fathers, men who say, as Job in the Bible said, "I have esteemed thy word greater than my necessary food."

A good dad is many things: role model, advisor, teacher and Godly example.

"Children are led best by positive example, not words," says a reader. "The best advice you can give a child is your splendid example."

Many of us owe our confidence, courage and faith to the encouragement of our dads.

For our heavenly Father teaches us, "I am with you always: I will never leave you or forsake you."

A recent study by the Department of Education suggests that when dads play an active role in their children's education, grades go up.

Researchers ranked dad's participation in school activities, going to class events, volunteering in the school and attending parent-teacher conferences high on the list of making children real achievers in life.

Further studies suggest that when a father, in particular, attends these functions, his child is more likely to enjoy school, participate in extracurricular activities and do well academically.

Research also states that when fathers demonstrate approval, warmth, and give plenty of attention to their children, they produce self-reliant, mature girls and confident, skillful boys.

Daughters, for example, did better at school when their fathers played sports with them and cheered on their earnest attempts.

"If you can compete on the tennis court then you probably can be a real competitor in the courtroom," one dad said.

Boys benefit from nurturing fathers, too, watching the example of what a real man and a caring and compassionate husband he one day will be.

Taking a sincere interest in their friends, helping them with their homework and playing games with your child can lead them to a better understanding of what sterling character is.

A good father can give you the great gift of persistence. He can dry your tears, comfort and help you to overcome and succeed by continually saying, "I know you can do it," and "Just try and try again."

Dads really need to read the book of Proverbs in the Bible with their children. It is full of wisdom, and you will never be at a loss for words as to what to say to your child.

We all have the need for a loving, caring and devoted father.

For those of us who have no earthly father, remember that you do have a wonderful, heavenly Father.

It is God, and He loves and values you as His greatest treasure and precious child. He has written a whole book telling of His great love for you. Pick it up and read it and be transformed into "A New You."

Have a blessed Father's Day, dear dads.

Write to Catherine Galasso-Vigorito, nationally syndicated columnist and author of "A New You, Words to Soothe the Body, Mind and Spirit," in care of Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795 or e-mail her at anewyou@snet.net © Catherine Galasso, 2005

DoD discusses family matters with state officials

SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Department of Defense understands that the nature of the volunteer force has changed, the head of DoD's personnel and readiness organization told state officials in April.

"The department recognizes that the volunteer force of the 21st century must be cared for in ways that were not seen as relevant when the active force was garrisoned in Europe and Asia and the Guard and Reserve were active on weekends and two weeks per year," David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said in text prepared for delivery. "The needs of today's military represent a force that is largely married with the same family concerns and aspirations of our civilian population."

It is those issues and the states' roles in helping to address them that brought people here for the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices Workshop held in Washington, D.C. The session brought together policy officials from states that host about 70 percent of active, Guard and Reserve servicemembers and their families, Chu said.

Some issues, like states allowing servicemembers and their families the benefit of in-state tuition to pursue higher education at state institutions, are already being addressed by half of the states.

Other servicemember concerns include making sure that the children of military families experience a smooth transition between schools, Chu said. Transferring records timely will keep students on track for graduation, and consideration for work already completed in another system will

make transitioning easier. Chu said that the department is looking for collaboration among states, school districts and military communities to facilitate such opportunities.

"Providing some flexibility in accepting academics achieved in other school systems and in tryout times for team and extracurricular activities" will help ensure that a parent's transfer does not penalize these students, Chu noted.

That same sort of flexibility when it comes to licensing practices in certain professions will also help smooth a nonmilitary spouse's transition after a move.

Chu asked that the states consider flexibility and reciprocity that honors licensing from other states and waives licensing fees.

"Many of our spouses are qualified teachers and nurses and can meet a growing need for these professionals within your states," he said. "The department is engaged on numerous fronts to assist spouses in their careers, but states can propel and create links within this effort to ensure mutual success."

He said unemployment compensation for a nonmilitary spouse would help military families deal with the financial impact of a move. It also would allow that spouse to explore career opportunities.

Also put before the officials was the need for foreign language expertise to support missions around the world. Chu asked for the states' assistance in filling the pipeline "for this expertise at all levels of education."

He added that he hoped participants would leave the workshop with a clearer understanding of how they and their states could support our nation's fighting force and its families.

For Bradley Airbase

BRAC Information,

visit the NGACT website at

www.ngact.org

Visit the

Connecticut Guardian

on-line at www.ct.ngb.army.mil

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TOBY P. CORMIER**
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Cell: 860-209-0770
toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil

Marriage Enrichment Seminar to be held

Focus on Prevention & Relationship Enhancement

The Department of Defense is well aware of the family stress that results from separation of deployments and issues of reintegration upon return. Out of concern for the well being of the service member's marriage, the DOD is funding a weekend night for married couples at the luxurious Mystic Hilton Hotel. The seminar is scheduled for Saturday, July 16.

This weekend is intended to be a reward for the sacrifice of service, and it includes hotel accommodations for Saturday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and a communication workshop for you and your spouse on Saturday. The Saturday workshop will emphasize communication skills and will feature short sessions and dialogue activities.

The goal of the weekend is to offer couples an enjoyable and relaxing experience in a pleasant setting while simultaneously presenting strategies to improve your relationship. Couples are encouraged to enjoy the amenities of the lovely Mystic area at the height of the summer season while learning valuable communication tools to enhance their relationship.

If you are a returning service member, and would like to enjoy a free night at the Mystic Hilton, call the Family Program Office at 1-800-858-2677.

The per diem rate of \$99.00 per night has been negotiated for those wishing to spend Friday night as well, at their own expense.

Child care is not available for this event.

Company offers troops, families special Father's Day deal

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Cardstore.com announced June 1 that it's providing a Father's Day card service for troops and their families.

This service is free for forward-deployed U.S. troops serving in the Middle East, and costs 99 cents for those assigned elsewhere.

The company said it will make the process as easy as possible for U.S. military personnel and their families to remember Dad on his special day. They can visit the company's Web site and select greeting cards online, or create their own by uploading a photo, and then adding a personal note to the inside. To take advantage of the 99-cent offer, enter promotion code usdad99 at checkout. Cardstore.com will then print and mail the cards in time for Father's Day on June 19.

"Because of the many notes of appreciation we received from the troops for our Mother's Day initiative, Cardstore.com decided to add the Father's

Day promotion," said Al Hulvey, company chief executive officer.

"We are thrilled that Cardstore.com has joined the team and is supporting our military men and women in the Middle East," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Allison Barber. "We applaud them for helping troops stay in touch with their families back home through this unique opportunity."

The company is engaging in the Father's Day effort as part of its partnership with America Supports You, a nationwide Department of Defense program that showcases America's support for the men and women of the armed forces.

Since the launch of America Supports You program last November, more than 2 million Americans, including individual citizens, businesses and organizations, have logged onto its Web site.

(Based on a Cardstore.com news release.)

Happy Father's Day!

For
deployment-related
questions call
1-800-858-2677

FREE SUMMER GETAWAY WEEKEND!

One Night at the Mystic Hilton Saturday, July 16th, 2005



Saturday, July 16th, 2005

The Connecticut National Guard Family Program Office is hosting a Marriage Enrichment Workshop for married Army and Air National Guard couples who have been reunited following a deployment. The Workshop is being offered at no cost to attendees, on Saturday, July 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mystic Hilton Grand Ballroom. Facilitators for the workshop are David Nutt and Trudy Kaufman.

Service members and their spouses will be placed on official travel orders for the event. Reservations can be made by contacting the State Family Program Office at 1.800.858.2677. Lodging expenses and all food will be assumed by the Family Program Office for Saturday's workshop and lodging. Participants wishing to stay at the hotel on Friday night are welcome to do so, at their own expense, as the hotel has offered a special rate of \$99 for that night. Attendees should not make hotel reservations themselves but rather contact the Family Program Office who will handle all reservations.

This event is limited to the first 50 couples! After the first 50 couples, a wait list will be compiled for others wishing to attend.

Deadline: 24 June 2005

Call the Family Program Office at 1.800.858.2677 for reservations.

CALL 1-800-858-2677 NOW!

Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

Waterbury Armory
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Duffy

Manchester Armory & AVCRAD
330 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-0780 Toll Free 866-347-2286 Capt. Lauri Tinelle

103rd FW, Bradley ANG Base
Bldg 8, East Granby, CT 06026
(860) 292-2730 Mrs. Donna Rivera

Hartford Armory
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
1-800-858-2677
Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Mrs. Michelle McCarty, Mrs. Karen Somes,
OC Claude Hibbert, Mrs. Trudy Kaufman and Sgt. Jessica McKenna

Norwich Armory
38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 823-1342 Ext. 12 Toll Free 866-347-3357
Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

103rd Air Control Squadron
206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477
(203) 795-2983 Charlie and Jane Solomon

Newington
555 Willard Ave., Bldg. 1, 4th Floor, Newington, CT 06111
Ms. Melissa Tetro & Sgt. Tamara Jex

Volunteers are needed in each facility.
Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family
Program Manager at 1-800-858-2677.

Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the following email address: kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil
Please visit our Website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil/family

Color Name Word Search

B	R	O	W	N	Z	B	E	W	O
A	T	E	Y	E	L	L	O	W	D
B	G	R	A	Y	C	T	R	H	B
L	T	T	I	A	B	L	A	I	O
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Kids' Creative Corner

A MONTHLY FEATURE OF
FUN AND EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES

BLACK	PINK
BLUE	PURPLE
BROWN	RED
GRAY	WHITE
GREEN	YELLOW
ORANGE	